

August 9-15, 1987

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THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

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SAFE SEX! LATEX GLOVES! RUBBERS
ON DILDOS! DENTAL DAMS!...

WHAT'S A DYKE TO DO?



CENTERSPREAD...

GayCommunityNews

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August 9-15, 1987

Activist describes on-going struggle, continued confinement

South Africa Releases Simon Nkoli on Bail

By Stephanie Poggi

JOHANNESBURG — Speaking to GCN by phone shortly after his release from prison, Black gay anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli said he and nine co-defendants on trial for treason were freed on bail June 30. They had been jailed for nearly three years in the country's biggest treason trial since that against Nelson Mandela 25 years ago this week. (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 47) The freedom of the defendants is severely limited by conditions of bail.

Three other defendants in the case, leaders in the United Democratic Front, remain in prison. The UDF is the primary legal anti-apartheid coalition in South Africa.

Charges of threatening the security of the white government were originally brought against 22

people in June 1984 when residents of the Black townships surrounding Johannesburg resisted rent hikes levied by government officials. In the subsequent violence, five officials were killed. Police arrested a group of anti-apartheid activists who had organized opposition to the rent increases, the defendants now known as the "Vaal 22." If found guilty on the specific charges of subversion, treason and conspiracy to murder, they could face the death penalty.

Six defendants in the case were released on bail in November of 1986. Three others were freed at that time for lack of evidence.

Speaking from Johannesburg, Nkoli said Supreme Court Justice Kees Van Dijkhorst agreed to the June 30 release "because he sees



we are not dangerous to security as the state is saying."

However, as Nkoli stressed, newly released defendants are hardly free. They were forced to surrender their travel documents,

they must appear in court every day, they cannot go to the Vaal region where many are from, they must report to police twice a day at specified times and they cannot attend political meetings. Bail was set at 1,500 Rand each, the equivalent of about \$7,500, according to Reuters news service.

According to Nkoli, the severity of the conditions of release ensure that the defendants will be unable to find employment. He said that while "we are happy to be out — we can move around and meet friends — financial-wise we are really suffering." He added that his three years of imprisonment, beginning when he was 24 years old, had also damaged his family economically. "I was the breadwinner for my family," said Nkoli.

The organizer of an inter-racial gay organization called the Saturday Group and a member of the Gay Association of South Africa, Nkoli described his experience in prison as particularly difficult because he is known to be gay. "In the beginning, I was isolated and they [the guards] watched me and insulted me," he said. "But I really coped — I am strong."

The activist, who had been a leader in anti-apartheid student politics, said prison officials also

hoped to exploit political differences among the defendants. "But we didn't fight, we keep ourselves together," said Nkoli.

While the primarily white GASA was recently expelled from the International Lesbian and Gay Association for failing to support Nkoli, the activist has been supported by an international gay campaign. He said the letters he received from gay men and lesbians around the world were what kept him going in prison. "GASA didn't support me. When people overseas were supporting me, I really felt strong. They made me to survive it."

A newly formed multi-racial coalition of gay/lesbian groups in South Africa has also lent support to Nkoli and publicized his case. The next meeting of the coalition — called the Congress of Pink Democrats — will be August 22 in Johannesburg, according to Nkoli.

The trial is expected to continue for at least another 18 months. Nkoli, who has already taken the witness stand, said "we don't know how it will end."

Letters to Nkoli may be sent c/o Priscilla Jana, P.O. Box 61875, Marshalltown 2107, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa.

—filed from Boston

Region omits anti-racism, -sexism demand

S. Calif. Censured for March Literature Policy

By Jennie McKnight

SEATTLE — The Southern California Regional Support Committee of the National March on Washington was censured by the National Steering Committee last weekend for refusing to include all of the approved March demands in its printed materials.

The demand to "end racism in this country and in South Africa" was left off the southern California literature, violating official March policy which requires all

demands be printed on March literature.

Sarah Holmes, a national steering committee member from Boston, said the move to censor was a "public statement of accountability," intended to inform the community about southern California's non-compliance with national policy.

"It's more a public embarrassment than punitive," Holmes said. "It doesn't stop them from

organizing, or cut off any March resources."

Resources played a major role in the debate about whether to censor. Southern California regional representatives claimed their enormous fundraising success has come from tailoring their literature to the interests of their supporters, many of whom live in the conservative areas of North San Diego County and Orange County.

Nicole Ramirez Murray, Co-chair of the Southern California Regional Support Committee and one of seven national executive committee members, said the region's literature "highlighted" the issues of concern to gay men and lesbians in southern California.

"A majority of gays and lesbians in southern California have the outlook that we should be going to Washington to march about AIDS and the Supreme Court decision [upholding Georgia's sodomy law], and that we shouldn't get bogged down by adding other statements that have to do with abortion, etc.," Murray said.

He added that some regional March supporters disagreed with official march statements against apartheid in South Africa and for economic equality.

Steering committee member Terry Ortiz, who is also on the People of Color Task Force for the march, said she did not believe there was a consensus among southern California organizers about the literature policy, but that dissent was being squelched.

Steve Ault, an executive committee member from New York, said the important work now is to "heal the wounds" caused by the controversy.

Murray said southern California organizers would "continue to do what is best within the region to promote the March." He said they would continue to print literature and materials as they see fit, despite the censure by the national steering committee.

The weekend meeting was the

Continued on page 7

Woo Denied Job Again

By Chris Bull

BERKELEY, CA — Lesbian and socialist-feminist activist Merle Woo has once again been denied reappointment as a lecturer by the University of California (UC), despite widespread support for her among students and faculty at the school.

The university administration ruled on July 29 that Woo had "not made a significant case to support the complaints" brought in her grievance petition filed last November. The case will go to an arbiter, jointly selected by the university and Woo's union, for a hearing sometime in the fall. The university, however, is not legally bound by the arbiter's decision.

This is the second time Woo has been denied reappointment. In 1983 she sued the university, charging discrimination on the basis of her race, sex, sexual orientation and political ideology. The UC Board of Regents voted to settle out of court by awarding Woo a two-year contract as a visiting lecturer and \$48,000.

Woo is a member of the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women, two socialist-feminist groups.

Woo's latest grievance charged that the administration treated her in "an arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable manner." Woo told GCN the administration has attempted "to get back at me" for winning the suit and publicizing the issue. Woo was reassigned to Field Studies, which has little contact with students, to punish her for challenging the university, she said.

Roz Spofford, Northern California Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers,



Nancy Kato

said the university has never questioned Woo's teaching ability. Student and faculty evaluations of Woo have been outstanding, according to Spofford. The university claims that Woo was let go because there were no funds to renew her two-year contract and because she does not have an advanced degree. Officials claim that Woo has not been treated any differently than other lecturers, who rarely stay at a school for more than four years.

Hired as a full-time lecturer in Asian-American Studies in 1978, Woo has led a battle by the Teachers Union to improve working conditions and job security for the 2,000 lecturers employed at the UC system's nine campuses. Lecturers are not on a tenure track, their jobs are renewed on a year-to-year basis. They are the lowest paid faculty despite having the most student contact. Tenured professors usually teach small seminars and spend much of their time on writing and research.

Phillip Speikerman, General Council for the university, said that competition for permanent positions at Berkeley is so great that only people with extensive ac-

Continued on page 6

Bashed in Boston

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The assault of seven people outside of two Boston clubs has spurred charges of racism and homophobia. All of those assaulted, including two who were stabbed, are Black, Latino and/or gay.

The attack occurred on Lansdowne Street in the early morning of July 30 near Nine Lansdowne and the Metro. The clubs had just closed after their weekly teen nights.

Reports of the incident vary, but according to Mike Mammone, one of the people who was assaulted, the attackers yelled "fags" and "niggers." Mammone reported that approximately 100 people were involved in the fray before it was broken up by police.

Rindge Leaphart, a Black man who was stabbed in the arm, said he was walking down the street with three Black friends and one white friend, when they saw a "crowd of people bothering three other kids on a fence." Of the three, one was Black, one Latino and one white. Leaphart said he and his friends approached to "help out" and were "rushed by 10-15 people." According to Leaphart, the men "originally

being accosted looked like they were gay."

Leaphart said he would classify the incident as being racially motivated and that the perceived sexual preference of some of those who were attacked was a factor.

The case is being investigated by the Community Disorders Unit (CDU) of the Boston Police Department. The CDU investigates assaults that appear to be motivated by prejudice based on race, ethnicity or sexual preference.

According to Bill Johnston of the CDU, the incident was started by 4-5 white men, who were "obviously drunk" and "picking on everyone who was there." "Race was certainly a portion of this, it appears to me. Whether [race] was primary, I don't know," added Johnston. "Sexual orientation was also certainly a portion of this, it appears to me. Whether [sexual orientation] was primary, I don't know."

Johnston said there are some leads, but no suspects in the assault.

Nine Lansdowne and the Metro have suspended teen nights because of the incident.

news notes

quote of the week

"Let me tell you about the trouble my friend had with her daughter. First the girl moved in with her boyfriend. It's none of my business, as far as I'm concerned, she can do what she wants. Then, she moves to San Francisco and becomes a lesbian. Do you know what I mean? She was trying everything. She didn't want to leave anything out. And then, she became a librarian. The next thing you know, she's having a baby, and there isn't a father or maybe she doesn't know who the father is. Anyway, it's none of my business."

—Martha DeLuca, in a conversation at the kitchen table with her granddaughter Nancy DeLuca.

jerker justice

WASHINGTON, DC — The Justice Department has decided not to prosecute the Pacifica Foundation for airing a play about gay sexuality in the AIDS era on its Los Angeles station KPFF-FM.

In April, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recommended KPFF for prosecution for alleged violation of obscenity laws by broadcasting *The Jerker* last August. However, the Justice Department found that broadcast conformed to FCC regulations in effect at the time, which require stations to air sexually explicit shows after 10 p.m. with a disclaimer.

New FCC regulations, adopted in April, attempt to make it more difficult for stations to broadcast sexually explicit material at any time. Members of the media have argued that eliminating new "case by case" rules only serves to cause confusion and prevent the airing of controversial material.

—Chris Bull



women trash recruitment center, slam ollie

OAKLAND, CA — Five women entered a military recruiting station here on July 17, tearing up recruitment literature and confronting recruiters as other demonstrators chanted, poured blood and distributed leaflets outside.

The action was organized by Women Against Imperialism to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution and to protest Oliver North's Congressional testimony in the Iran-Contra scandal.

—Jennie McKnight

newsletter for asian dykes

BROOKLYN, NY — Asian lesbians living in the U.S. have started a newsletter for Asian lesbians everywhere, particularly Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Afghani, Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Nepalese, and Burmese lesbians. Single issues are \$3. Write Anamika, Box 652, Van Brunt Station, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

—John Hubert

south african queer group growing

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The Rand Gay Organization (RGO) was formed in 1986 to unite Blacks, fight employment and social discrimination against gays and lesbians, and to offer social services to the gay and lesbian community.

RGO now has about 400 members, including about 200 whites who support their aims. The police have been stopping all foreign mail from reaching the organization's post office box. To contact RGO, write to ILGA Information Secretariat who will forward it. Please send some international postal coupons or cash to cover the ILGA expenses. Write to RGO, c/o ILGA-RSFL, Box 350, S-10124 Stockholm, Sweden.

—Wendy Scott and John Hubert

ilis moves

AMSTERDAM — The International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS) has moved from Geneva, Switzerland to Amsterdam, Holland, the land of windmills and dykes. The new ILIS-Secretariat is Interpot, which means International Dyke politics.

Interpot's first action as the new Secretariat has been to publish the ILIS Newsletter in three languages — English, Spanish, and French. They are hoping to hear from lesbian groups from around the world.

Membership fees are \$15 for individual women and \$60 for groups. Write to ILIS-Secretariat, c/o COC, Rozenstraat 8, 1016 NX Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

—John Hubert

gay male battering

SAN FRANCISCO — Preliminary results from a survey by the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP) indicates that while there is significant incidence of violence in gay relationships, domestic violence is not considered an issue in the gay community.

About 100 of the informally distributed surveys have been returned, with a majority of the respondents indicating a belief that gay domestic violence is more prevalent among poor people or men of color. Sharon Silverstein, Client Service Coordinator of the project, said "Domestic violence happens across the board among people no matter what their class or race or sexual preference. Domestic violence, in straight or gay relationships, is a huge problem in this country."

GMDVP is an eight-month program run by the Community United Against Violence which offers free victim services, including support groups, counseling, criminal justice assistance, legal advice, a 24-hour hotline, resource referral and information, and emergency funds for food and shelter, according to the *San Francisco Sentinel*.

The GMDVP can be reached at (415) 864-3112.

—Jennie McKnight



Irreverent nuns protest Pope fundraiser.

pre-pope protest

SAN FRANCISCO — The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a group of gay male nuns, demonstrated outside Mayor Dianne Feinstein's house July 23 to protest the Mayor's \$250-a-plate fundraiser for Pope John Paul II's September visit here.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the Sisters were joined by Scarlet Harlot, a prostitute and leader of The Whores of Babylon. Harlot treated the demonstrators to the song "Pope Don't Preach, I'm Terminating My Pregnancy."

Demonstrating across the street from the Sisters and the Whores were a group of Nazi death camp survivors and Orthodox Jews, who came to the Mayor's house to express their outrage at the Pope's meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, a reputed ex-Nazi.

San Francisco is not the only city planning to turn out protesters for the Pope's scheduled fall tour. Dignity, a national group of gay and lesbian Roman Catholics, will be making their dissatisfaction with the Vatican's homophobic views known publicly in the nine cities the pontiff will visit. However, protests will be low-key and away from papal event sites, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

In addition, a group of 30 women's organizations has formed the Papal Visit Coalition, and is planning to hold demonstrations in front of the Vatican's embassy in Washington. The *Philadelphia Gay News* reports that a general rally will be held on August 26 (Women's Equality Day), followed by demonstrations focused on specific issues. Lesbian and gay rights will be the focus of the September 2 rally; women's ordination, August 30; legal equality, September 8, and abortion and birth control, September 9.

—Jennie McKnight



Holocaust survivors and Orthodox Jewish activists picket DiFi dinner.

news notes compiled by jennie mcknight

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Gay/Labor Activist Gerry Parker Dies

Gerry Parker, labor organizer, gay rights activist, and former New Hampshire legislator, died of AIDS on July 10, just four days short of his 39th birthday.

By John Kyper

I met Gerry Parker at the beginning of 1979, shortly after I had moved from Boston to San Francisco. Appropriately, we first encountered each other while walking a picket line outside a Castro Street restaurant, after the workers had been fired for attempting to affiliate with Local 2 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union.

I soon came to notice the six-plus footer at these and at countless other demonstrations over the next four years I was to live in the Bay Area. He was easily one of the most militant participants, with a penetrating voice that often sounded a little hoarse from a heavy diet of shouting and cigarettes. I found his intensity almost intimidating at first. Later, when talking with him on the phone, I would have to hold the receiver several inches from my ear to keep from being deafened by his boom.

I didn't know it when I met him, but I had heard all about Gerry years before when he was a member of the New Hampshire State Legislature. It all began in 1973 when publisher William Loeb of the Manchester *Union-Leader* and Governor Meldrim Thomson, both rabid right wing homophobes, launched a holy war against the newly-formed Gay Students Organization at the University of New Hampshire. This bathetic imbroglio received international notoriety before it was over. In the middle of all the bruhaha, someone from *GCN* — the paper had just been founded a few months before — told me he had talked with a state representative from Nashua who was considering coming out publicly. The following summer the *Union-Leader* produced a panting, through-the-keyhole expose of what it termed the "queer clubs" of Manchester. Loeb's reporter listed a "young legislator" among

the denizens of this netherworld. Since the great majority of the New Hampshire General Court were well over 50, this description left *nothing* to the imagination. He was, nevertheless, easily re-elected later that year.

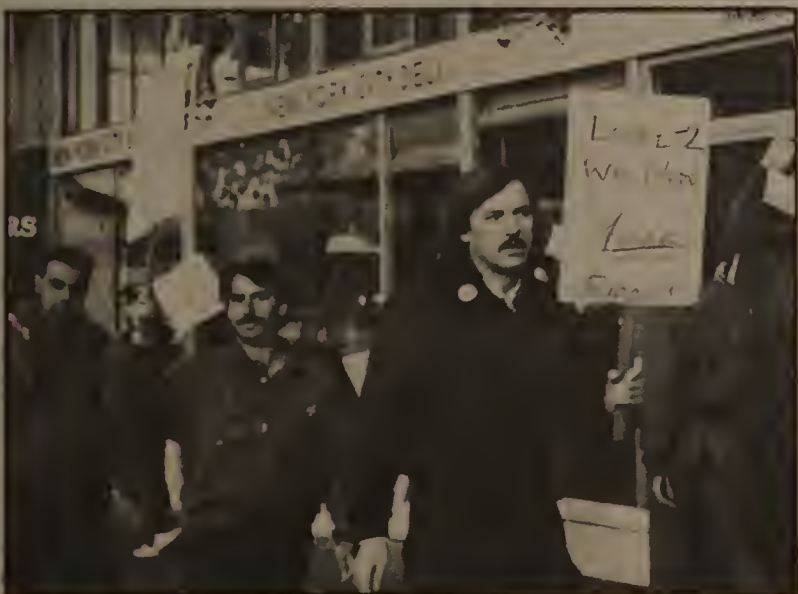
Gerry was a member of a locally prominent family that had lived in the Nashua area since Colonial times. In 1970 he received much publicity when he was elected to the first of his three terms in Concord, at 22. At the time there was a campaign to lower the voting age nationwide, culminating in the passage of the 26th Amendment the following year.

His outspoken and feisty manner soon gained him even more attention. He was once made to explain his participation in a march against the Vietnam War in Washington, by a legislature decidedly hostile to such viewpoints. Their reaction he described as "a triumphant boo." He would also regularly hitch-hike the 35 miles from his home to the State House, in violation of a law against hitchhiking. After being arrested on the Everett Turnpike, he unsuccessfully sought to open state highways to hitch-hikers, charging that the law against hitching was being used to harass "longhairs and other young people."

In 1975, after completing work on the state budget during that recession year, he abruptly resigned his seat and moved to California to become involved in politics there. He told me he was tired of dealing with Gov. Thomson's erratic behavior, e.g., once advocating that the state's National Guard be armed with nuclear weapons.

I got to know Gerry when we both worked on the campaign for San Francisco Supervisor Howard Wallace, another gay/labor activist, who is a longtime organizer of the Coors beer boycott. As I had lived for much of my childhood in a small town not far from Nashua and still had contacts in the region, we knew numerous people in common. Later on we became roommates for six months along with another gay activist. At the time Gerry had become president of the Stonewall Gay

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Parker (R-front) pickets for Local 2.

New Insurance Regulations Slammed at Mass. Hearings

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Gov. Michael Dukakis' administration describes new state regulations allowing some HIV testing by insurers as a compromise between the industry and AIDS activists. (See *GCN*, Vol. 15, No. 1) But at an August 4 hearing on the policy, it was clear that almost no one was satisfied by the so-called compromise.

Lesbian and gay activists, AIDS activists, politicians, representatives from school and social services professions and disability rights groups argued against HIV antibody testing for non-cancellable disability insurance and life insurance policies over \$100,000. They claim such testing will result in breaches of confidentiality and financial disaster for people who contract AIDS.

Insurance industry representatives slammed the ban on HIV testing for health insurance, cancellable disability insurance and life insurance policies under \$100,000. They maintained these restrictions are discriminatory because they distribute the costs of AIDS claims among all policy holders.

Rep. David Cohen (D-Newton) noted that preliminary research by the state Insurance Division indicates AIDS claims paid out by the industry in Massachusetts to date would add fifteen cents to each policy holder's yearly costs. Even if such claims increased tenfold the added costs to each consumer would be one dollar and fifty cents, he said.

Cohen's claims were later disputed by an insurance industry representative who said AIDS related costs will skyrocket under the current policy.

Critics attacked the administration's willingness to allow insurers to report HIV results to an unregulated national data bank, the Medical Information Bureau (MIB). Under the new policy HIV results will get recorded in a general blood disorder category. People who test positive for HIV can make up no more than 25 percent of the total number assigned to this category. Denise McWilliams, director of the AIDS Law Project for Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), cautioned that this section of the policy will be difficult to enforce and at best will lead to the assumption that all young single men listed under the general blood disorder category have tested positive for HIV antibodies. At worst, everyone in that category will be treated as if they are positive for HIV antibodies, she said.

Jay Angoff, of the National Insurance Consumer Organization, charged that penalties for those who violate the regulations are too lenient, ranging from \$5-10 thousand. "That's nothing to insurance companies," said Angoff, who was otherwise sympathetic to

the insurance industry's arguments.

While insurers spent hours arguing they could not follow the new regulations, they also challenged the authority of the Dukakis administration to create an HIV

testing policy for the industry. "Just as the welfare commissioner could not order all grocery stores operating in the state to provide free or sharply discounted food to welfare recipients, so too the in-

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City Negligence Charged in Death



Ellen Shub

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — "We are here to announce the lack of protection from the police in the death of Miriam López Pérez, the lack of protection in our neighborhoods, the racism that pervades the city of Boston and the Boston Police Department and we want violence against women to be stopped," Annette Diaz told approximately 125 people gathering for a candle-light vigil at the Boston Police Headquarters on August 5.

Miriam Lopez Pérez was murdered in the South End on April 20, 1987. Pérez' boyfriend, Angel Carrasquillo, was charged with first degree murder in her death and is currently in jail awaiting trial. Comité De Mujeres Puertorriqueñas-Miriam López Pérez formed shortly after the murder to denounce negligence by the Boston Police Department and the legal system in Pérez' death.

According to the Boston *Globe*, Pérez had sought help from the police a number of times since October 1985 when she got a court order barring Carrasquillo from harassing her. But the police provided no help when Pérez and her family filed complaints accusing Carrasquillo of "beating her, kicking in the walls of her apartment, destroying her belongings, cutting her brother with a knife and slashing his car."

Despite evidence of such police reports, Kathleen Hen-

nessey, Director of the Boston City Women's Commission, told the *Globe*, "It would be wrong to assume the police did not do their job. Lots of people didn't do their job along the way, including the family and the community. The Hispanic community tends to be very insular and not trust authority." James Clairborne, of the Boston Police Department, echoed Hennessey's views, "I hate to put the blame on the dead person. But there is some individual responsibility to resolve these things beyond leaning on institutions."

"It's that very attitude of victim blaming that keeps so many battered women locked in their [lives], said Elba Crespo of the Comité De Mujeres Puertorriqueñas-Miriam López Pérez. "How many times must a woman cry out for help before protection will be granted?" Crespo accused city officials of "blaming the Puerto Rican Community for the police department's failure to protect the Puerto Rican community. That is inexcusable."

In May the committee asked for a full investigation of the police department's role in Pérez' murder. On the day of the vigil Police Commissioner Francis Roache told committee members the investigation would be completed by the end of this month.

"We're looking for action, not words," commented Crespo.

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GCN Job Openings

Typesetter (available mid-September): Typeset news and features articles and other copy for weekly paper, as well as ad copy, promotional materials, etc. Position involves other staff duties as well. **Qualifications:** Strong typing and/or word processing skills required. Typesetting experience, particularly on a Campugraphic Editwriter 7500 helpful. (Training is available.) Strong writing and good grammar/copy editing skills preferred. **Deadline for application is Sept. 1.**

All GCN positions require a commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and a commitment to the collective decision-making process.

Salary/Benefits: All positions pay \$180/wk and include health/life insurance, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

GCN is also looking for a **freelance, part-time typesetter** to coordinate the paper's revenue-producing, outside typesetting business. **Responsibilities include:** typeset outside work and schedule other typesetters; serve as contact person for clients and respond to inquiries; prepare periodic billings and maintain the necessary financial records; coordinate scheduling needs with the paper's in-house typesetter, and keep managing editor informed about the business; and contact typesetting repair service if necessary. **Qualifications include:** Good typesetting skills, preferably on a Campugraphic Editwriter 7500, and strong organizational skills with attention to detail. Familiarity with GCN strongly preferred. Knowledge of progressive movements helpful. **Hours:** 10-20 hours/week (evenings, Friday and weekends) **Salary and Benefits:** Job pays \$8/hour. Partial health care insurance offered. **Deadline for application is August 21.**

To apply for either position please send resume and cover letter ASAP to
Typesetting Search Committee, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

open defiance of sodomy laws

Dear GCN:

I am writing to solicit any interested volunteers who share my desire to respond to the Supreme Court sodomy decision by acts of civil disobedience that openly flout sodomy laws.

I am not trying to detract from the civil disobedience action that is planned for the October March on Washington; I plan to participate in that as well. But I feel that this action of having a sit-in on the Supreme Court steps is not enough, and that we could be making a much more forceful statement by announcing our intentions to commit sodomy acts at specific times and locations. Since the time of the Supreme Court decision, I have been attempting to persuade gay organizations and leaders to take this approach, without concrete results. It is a serious failure of gay leadership not to have organized open defiance of sodomy laws, and my own attitude is not to wait for leaders when there is an unattended need.

I will personally pay to place a newspaper ad taunting the straight political establishment with an announcement of an upcoming act of sodomy. I am not planning sex in public locations, and am intending only the safest of sex. In the District of Columbia, the slightest touching of certain body areas constitutes a criminal act, and actual sex is not even needed.

My own preference is to keep trying new approaches to get actually arrested. If the police do not respond to the newspaper ad, I would like to hear from any interested persons, even if they themselves are not willing to go quite this far.

I am not trying to promote casual sex, and view this type of civil disobedience entirely as a political necessity, not as recreation. The government is attempting to put a brand of shame and criminality on our relationships and our personalities; we need to face whatever awkwardness may result from attempting to return the shame to where it rightfully belongs — with the government bodies that are responsible for sodomy laws.

To me, this type of open defiance is called for as a matter of our own pride and self-respect. I see it as a statement that can be made in no other way, and see the statement as an end in itself, regardless of its chances for bringing an end to sodomy laws.

Male and female participants would be equally welcome. Anyone who is interested can write to me at 205 Warren St., Randolph, MA 02368 for more information.

Tom Keske
Randolph, MA

filling the void

Dear GCN:

Hello! My name is Mickey Matson and I've been reading your paper (second hand) from another inmate who is housed on death row with me. I want to thank you for your 'Prisoners Seeking Friends' section because I have met a friend, Eileen Donohue, from Taycheedah, Wisconsin, who was looking for a friend too and we are filling the void in this dull and wasteful prison existence. Thank you for bringing two people together.

Two friends,
Mickey Matson
Nashville, TN

remember tom

Dear GCN:

With the passing of Dr. Thomas Waddell we have lost a true leader and positive spirit in the struggle for Gay rights and recognition.

Without a doubt, his lengthy legal battle with the U.S. Olympic Committee all the way to the ultimate rejection by the Supreme Court took its toll as much as his battle with AIDS.

So the U.S. Olympic Committee doesn't like the use of the word "Gay" with Olympic. They shouldn't mind then if we drop "that" word but still use theirs.

The Tom Waddell Olympics. At least the Tom Waddell Gaymes. We should never forget.
David Reid
Los Angeles, CA

false stereotypes of bisexuals

This letter is the second GCN received in response to Newsweek's cover story on bisexuality

Dear Newsweek Editors:

In the interest of combatting negative and false stereotypes about bisexual people, I consented to be interviewed and photographed for an article in *Newsweek* about bisexual lifestyles. During my interview, I devoted considerable attention to a definition of bisexuality (the *potential* for being sexually and/or romantically involved with members of either gender), emphasizing that bisexuals are *not* by definition promiscuous, non-monogamous or sex-crazed. Some bisexuals may be so, but then too are some heterosexuals and some homosexuals. I discussed my own lifestyle, which is monogamous. I also devoted considerable time to the establishment in recent years of over thirty bisexual support organizations in the United States. My own organizations—the Boston Bisexual Women's Network and the East Coast Bisexual Network—boast over 850 and 2,000 members respectively. (More information about groups in the U.S. can be obtained by calling 617-247-6683.)

I was quite surprised and angered to read the resulting article, entitled "Bisexuals and AIDS: The Dangers of a Double Life." This article dubbed bisexuals "the ultimate pariahs," and focused on comments by therapists about married, closeted bisexual men who engage in anonymous homosexual encounters. These quotes, due to the poor quality of the article, were by extension supposed to refer to bisexuals in general, ignoring the fact that the quotes were referring to and applicable to only a small portion of all bisexuals.

I was most enraged by the article's ending: "Any thaw in relations [between bisexuals and everyone else] is not likely to happen . . . as long as many straights and gays are discussing AIDS candidly with their partners, while bisexual men often don't tell the truth—even to themselves."

I think the reality is somewhat different. Many bisexual people, especially those of us who are active in the gay/lesbian community which has been the vanguard of AIDS education, have been educated about AIDS and are practicing safe sex. I am afraid that it is the majority of heterosexuals who are still operating under the false assumption

I hope that the next time *Newsweek* decides to cover bisexuality, more attention is given to careful and accurate reportage. Hysterical, erroneous reporting may sell more issues, but does a tremendous disservice to everyone.

Sincerely,
Robyn Ochs
Cambridge, MA

refusing to become a piece

Dear GCN:

I have a little something to relate about our criminal (!) 'justice' system.

I'm in Protective Custody due to a gang of men (none of who meet the criteria of being a man) who thrive on extortion and individual manipulation by sure numbers of force (five to one). In any event, these inmates are unruly in the prison, are not controlled by anyone, and I refuse to become a piece of their game of play.

Once I arrived in PC, I found that I was in yet a bigger snake pit. No unity: disorganization and individuals who are scared to fight for their rights (40 percent gay).

At once I started a law suit as to the conditions, which include inadequate medical care, no recreation (24 hours a day locked up), no educational programs, unfit food, excessive noise, and excessive restrictions for persons who exercise their 8th amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment, made binding upon the states by the due process clause of the 14th amendment.

I did finally find a few guys who were really and sincerely interested in making a change and I obtained a few affidavits as to the conditions. It is not hard to imagine how one is harmed both physically and mentally when locked into an unnecessarily small area — no bigger than a closet — for a period of years.

Think of it: no sun, fresh air, eye contact with other human beings, for long periods of time. Our government talks about human rights violations around the world. They should first check in their own back yard before going next door to demand that the neighbors clean theirs. Medical care is substandard. It takes weeks to see a doctor. The whole "Protective Custody" scheme is a mess, with no change in sight.

Subsequent to filing our protest suit on these conditions in federal court, the prison officials' retaliation started quite quickly. First it was disciplinary reports for those who signed the affidavits, then threats, and then I was transferred to another prison. I have documented proof that I was transferred solely because of the PC suit.

The whole point, I am here for committing a crime, yet I see the state officials commit crimes that are ten fold worse and they do it without ramifications. Society is judged by the way they treat their prisoners and our society is sure in a state of hypocrisy, and is retreating instead of advancing.

You asked what my experiences are with the criminal justice system. Well, quite frankly, it's a crime itself.

Sincerely,
Stephen William Gump
180-802, Box 45699
Lucasville, OH 45699

what's your opinion brothers & sisters?

Dear GCN:

I am in what you call 'the box' confined to a 'special' housing unit for punishment because I stabbed some guys who call they self godly and are always beaten up on gays and she males because they hate homosexuals. But I am a warrior and I fight for my gay brothers rights everywhere I go and my lesbian sisters. I am a very highly respected gay in the maximum security prisons in New York because I don't take shit. They say I am one Puerto Rican gay who is mentally sick. That's because they don't understand that we are humans too. This Dannemora prison is the most racist in the state, but we must be strong and don't fear because one day we will walk hand in hand with the freedom and rights of the lesbian and gay family.

I cannot fight all alone. I need other gay brothers to help me fight for gay rights and against racism. I will also need support to try and open a gay history program (classes) to teach the young gays to help each other out and to stay out of trouble. I want to hear from all the gay and lesbian family. I don't need funds. I need writing support to show the Department of Correction officials the need and the importance of a program to stop racism and hating gays.

I am also going to open a gay committee on prison life when I get out in the next 2 years, so I will like to hear what the gay world got to say. What's your opinion brothers and sisters of the gay and lesbian world and our need to teach each other?

So let's work together as the family we are,
Alberto Rodriguez
Box B — 81A306
Dannemora, NY 12929

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GayCommunityNews

Cover by Niall Sweeny
and Dan Mishkind

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Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out In Perpetual Exile

By W. J. Deltour

Welcome to the United States... well, I better make that welcome BACK to the United States for, after having lived and worked in France over the past thirteen months, I don't know what to make of my return home. Is it a "retour" in the sense of returning to a land one knows as a foreigner or is it a "rentree," when one returns to his or her homeland. Administratively, there is no doubt whatsoever: a citizen of the United States, I was born here and have not been naturalized outside of the country. But culturally what is it? I feel split, divided as I imagine most other Europhiles do when they come home after extensive time abroad.

I am only making brief observations here, not well-founded by any means, more likely spontaneous gut feelings concerning my stay in France as opposed to my life in the United States, especially as a gay male, for that comes into play most certainly in the American context.

I cannot in all honesty say that I feel French. While I am fluent in the language and have adopted by choice a French way of living, I would simply be fooling myself by thinking that I would someday feel essentially French.

I cannot, however, say that I feel American. I have never felt as though I belonged to this country as a whole. "To feel American" has as well become a sort of leit-motif for neo-conservatives, to sum up a pretty pathetic image of the United States. In Reagan's America, how can any individual who isn't male and straight and white and capitalistic feel American? It seems a contradiction in terms.

I've always been forced to create an identity through exclusion and rejection in this country. I am a GAY American, a LEFTIST American — I thus feel ties with others who are

*I feel stunned to be back in
the United States where I feel fear because
I am identifiable as gay.*

gay or politically centered to the left, but I don't feel any ties with America. I therefore don't have those cultural links to allow myself any kind of cultural identity based here in America. If I am to see myself as a Bostonian, it is again only in a gay sense, knowing gay restaurants, belonging to gay organizations, going out to gay clubs, and having predominantly gay friends, as well as rejecting much of what I see as "straight" America. I therefore radicalize and separate myself from one sector of society — heterosexuals. What they see as theirs I cannot recognize as mine without feeling a sense of betrayal to my gay identity — and they as well radicalize themselves, rejecting much of what they see as gay, be it in literature, in movies, in style.

Most French know that Andre Gide was gay, as was Marcel Proust. Colette was a lesbian, as is Marguerite Yourcenar, not to mention Jean Genet. And yet French society goes beyond those boundaries to make of these people national heroes of a sort. One needn't be gay to appreciate Proust, and Yourcenar was elected to the Academie Francaise not because of her lesbianism but because of her writing. One can feel a tie to them which parallels or even goes beyond that of homosexuality, that of being raised in a certain land, speaking a certain language, and living a certain reality whose limits go beyond that of sexuality. I felt a definite sense of inclusion in France, a feeling of fitting in regardless of WHAT I was, and I felt myself much less limited both personally and professionally. I wouldn't automatically dismiss someone for what s/he represented — it seemed as though the person were more important rather than the person's sexuality.

In the United States, it appears to me to be the contrary. I must be able to relate to the exclusion someone has endured to appreciate that person or the work s/he has produced. A Black lesbian author is to be first on my reading list, a straight white male last, for it is only through the experience of rejection that I am able to relate to others. There is a sort of hierarchy of value which is created, with sides to be taken, dogmatic positions to be defended, and, ultimately, a distinct "uniform" to be put on to distinguish oneself from all that is considered "other."

However, did I not spend countless hours with French gays telling them that they only *felt* a part of French society, but were actually the naive victims of the temptations of an imaginary assimilation which didn't exist? Did I not use French Jews as an example of a group which felt so integrated and yet were so horribly betrayed by French collaborators during World War II?

I feel stunned nonetheless to be back in the United States when I feel fear because I am

identifiable as gay, from the clothes I wear, while walking around Waltham to visit an old friend from Brandeis. I feel sick when leaving a gay club only to be greeted by screams of "there are too many faggots in this fucking city." And I am disgusted by an American government which has sat on AIDS for so many years and has only begun to act — and ridiculously so.

I'd begun to forget that side of the United States while I was in France. Never was I treated as a "sale pede" (rotten faggot) and never did I feel uncomfortable because of my homosexuality in a public situation. Eyebrows didn't rise when my lover asked for a double bed — as opposed to two single ones — while staying in the hotels in Normandy, Brittany, Provence, and in some of the most provincial towns. The French extreme Right's ideas concerning homosexuality align themselves more closely with this country's moderate Right and AIDS has always been seen there as a national health issue and not one of isolated priority, owing to the group it mainly afflicts. I made gay friends as easily as straight friends, knew straight couples as well as gay couples, and it just wasn't the issue it is here — people on both sides seemed less concerned with where my sexual interests lay.

And yet, as I've already stated, I complained there as well. I felt gays were terribly ignorant of their situation, their history and culture as gays; they were not at all "gay-identified," as if they were denying themselves a sort of separate existence I felt they should play out, as we do in the United States. I was shocked to learn that Paris had only two women's bars, and that most of the lesbian movement was concentrated in lofty academic circles in highly philosophical, ideological, and practically incomprehensible language. I was saddened by the lack of interest in Paris' Pride March and by the fact that it barely attracted 25,000 people. And I was frustrated by the lack of any real "gay atmosphere" in Paris, such as I would easily rediscover in the South End of Boston.

My series of "and yet," "however," and "nonetheless" could continue for many pages here. Perhaps I should just face my situation — the gay Francophile American that I am, I'm in perpetual exile... the grass is always greener *ou comme on dit la-bas, c'est toujours mieux ailleurs*.

W. J. Deltour is a gay man who has just returned from an extensive stay in Europe.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the view of the newspaper staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

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Community Voices

representation of bis in the media

Dear GCN:

Bisexuality has suddenly become a hot topic for mainstream media. Unfortunately, the coverage has not focused on the emergence of the bisexual liberation movement in Boston and nationwide, but on AIDS.

One such article appeared in the April 3rd issue of the New York Times: "AIDS Specter for Women: The Bisexual Man," a nasty, biphobic piece of journalism. This kind of coverage is detrimental to all of us — gay men, lesbians, bi men and bi women — and cannot be tolerated.

In our eagerness to speak our piece, the Boston Bisexual Women's Network agreed to an interview with *Newsweek*. The enclosed article was the result. The enclosed letter is my response.

Perhaps you will be willing to publish excerpts. I would appreciate any space that you could devote to the issue of bisexual representation in the media. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lucy Friedland
Brookline, MA

Dear *Newsweek*:

I am responding to *Newsweek's* wretched article on bisexuality in the July 13th issue, "Bisexuals, AIDS and the Dangers of a Double Life." You begin by acknowledging that "very little is known about the numbers and habits of bisexuals," and then credit bisexuals (men and women) capable of all kinds of nefarious and irresponsible sex practices.

The theories you use to explain bisexual behaviors are ridiculous. The "distant, unsym-

pathetic father" theory doesn't wash with us women. Neither does the "three categories of bisexuals" theory. My understanding of bisexuality, gained, in part, through bisexual conferences, retreats and political action groups, is that bisexual practice is as varied as bisexuals are. Contrary to what your reporters might fantasize, a number of men and women who identify as bisexuals are celibate!

Your own research has revealed no substantial evidence that "bisexuals [here you *must* mean bisexual men] are passing the disease from the gay to the straight community." Aren't you grievously maligning *all* bisexuals by calling us a threat to our spouses and children?

The bisexuals of America have been organizing into networks to combat just this kind of pernicious biphobia. Thirty networks have been founded in the United States, and at least six more internationally. The five-year-old Boston Bisexual Women's Network, which *Newsweek* characterizes as a "support group," has a mailing list of over 800. A National Bisexual Contingent is forming to join the March on Washington for Gay & Lesbian Rights, taking place October 11th.

Another raison d'être for the local and regional bisexual networks has been to educate men and women on safe sex and contraceptive issues. The "new uneasiness about AIDS" is only new to straights. AIDS has been an issue for the bisexual community since 1979. What is new is mainstream media's interest in writing skewed, sensational bisexual exposes. The "pariahs of the '80s" who "want it all" also want to be represented fairly in the media.

JEAN A. McCRAY

Attorney-at-Law

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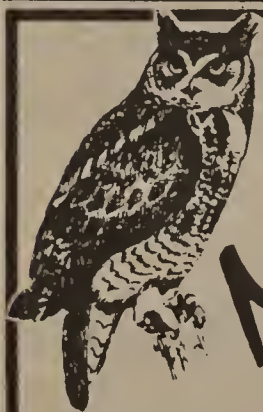
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REAL PAPER AWARDS J & S Automotive BEST AUTO MECHANIC

It looks like a big commercial garage, but there are all these weird little things about it. Reggae music is blasting away, signs for political and union meetings are taped up, the mechanic might be a woman, and sometimes it's hard to find anyone in charge. J & S has been Boston's hippest garage for years and years, and for the last few years, it's also been the best. Even when they didn't know how to fix everything, they never cheated anybody or covered up. So over the years they kept learning new makes and new techniques, and now can repair about anything. Their speciality is still Dodge Darts and Plymouth Valiants, those classics of dependability. But they're ready for anything and did most of the work on the antique vehicles for the movie "The Brinks Job."

Reprinted from Real Paper, "Best of Boston," Fall 1980.

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Merle Woo

Continued from page 1

ademic experience are selected. He said although Woo was regarded as an excellent teacher, she did not have the proper credentials to be considered for a permanent position. Speikerman insisted that the university is not concerned with the ideology of its teachers. "Berkeley is a cauldron of intellectual ferment. There is an incredible diversity of opinion here. It should be obvious that we do not make judgments on the basis of personal convictions."

Woo, who is currently teaching women's studies courses at San Francisco State, said that the administration sees her as a threat to the lecturer system, which provides the state-wide university with cheap labor. She said that the university "can't afford to give it to me because there would be a firecracker effect with many employees — staff, janitors, lecturers — demanding fair treatment."

Speikerman claims that the university hires lecturers on a year-to-year basis because enrollment and demand for courses vary from year to year. "The university does not hire and fire lecturers to keep political control over them," he said.

Woo also said she is challenging the UC system's inaccessibility. She has been active in bilingual education and community-based courses which meet the needs of women, gay people and people of color. She said that while the UC system may not overtly discriminate against these groups, administrators do not go out of their way to make the schools accessible.

Robert Anderson, an openly gay professor of economics at Berkeley, told GCN that the university is "fairly open" to gay teachers and students but not to radical politics inspired by women, gay men and lesbians and people

of color. "In my case, I have not experienced any problems but I think people in Merle's position, without job security, are more vulnerable to reprisals for challenging the school." Anderson added that Woo is well-liked on campus.

Woo said the UC system is full of Marxists and radical thinking professors but very few who attempt to organize students in the classroom and on campus. She said there is a deeply ingrained bias against activism and for academic achievement. The administration, Woo charged, is "committed, more than ever in this time of rightwing reaction, to preserving the university as a bastion of anti-democratic, bigoted 'Americanism.'" She added that gay people, women and people of color are the main forces behind the anti-apartheid movement at Berkeley. The university has 2.4 billion dollars invested in corporations doing business in South Africa.

"We have to remember that this is a public institution, it is ours. Very soon in California a majority of students will be people of color. These students need to be introduced to different perspectives, to perspectives like my own, especially in these rightwing times," said Woo.

Spofford said she believes that the university is uncomfortable with people who make waves. She said a recent victory in the Nancy Shaw tenure case shows that the university would rather not deal with controversial people. Shaw, a lesbian sociology professor at UC Santa Cruz, recently won a five-year battle for reinstatement with tenure. (See GCN, Vol. 14 No. 40) "The school wants people that fit in nicely to its system, the union is committed to supporting those that do not," Spofford said.

—filed from Boston

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Gerry Parker

Continued from page 3

Democratic Club, the most progressive of the city's three gay Democratic clubs.

His characteristic bluntness remained his trademark: "If I believe something is right or I believe something is wrong," he told United Press International in 1971, "I say it and I don't worry about the way I say it, how I say it or who might be offended or hurt. Unfortunately, some people take what I say personally, and I don't mean it as such."

Gerry had among the best political instincts I've every witnessed; moreover, he was usually right, and always highly principled. The last time I saw him he was vehemently combatting the tendency of some gays to cave in to panic and surrender their civil liberties in the face of the AIDS epidemic.

Despite his rough edges, I developed a lot of affection for Gerry. A year and a half before his death I ran into him in Boston's Sporter's bar, and I realized how much I had missed him in the time since I had moved back East. Last winter I learned he had AIDS. It seemed very appropriate that I should find his obituary in the Boston *Globe* on Bastille Day.

Insurance

Continued from page 3

insurance commissioner, no matter how laudable the goal of insurance for all may be, cannot order private insurance companies to sell at a loss contracts to insurable individuals," stated Jack Curtin in his testimony on behalf of the Life Insurance Association of Massachusetts.

Curtin threatened to sue the administration if the regulations remain in place. According to Denise McWilliams, GLAD is also considering bringing suit.

Savings Bank Life Insurance, a company which sells relatively inexpensive insurance policies via the state's savings banks, has announced that it plans to refuse to pay AIDS-related death claims for most policy holders. Prospective

policy holders who furnish proof they are HIV negative may be eligible for AIDS-related death claims, the company said. The proposal has been criticized by industry representatives and AIDS activists.

Censure

Continued from page 1

last for the national steering committee. In addition to the censure decision, committee members discussed heightening the visibility of AIDS in the March. The group decided the people with AIDS contingent would lead the March but proposals to further increase the focus on AIDS were informally rejected.

Sarah Holmes said there was "interest in doing more AIDS visibility work locally before the March, but not for changing the national name on literature."

The committee also added bikers, bisexuals and parents to the list of official March contingents.

In addition, the Seattle gathering endorsed a resolution from the New England regional steering committee to hold Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis accountable for his homophobic state policies on foster care and HIV testing by insurers. The proposal also called for the repeal of all anti-lesbian and gay foster care, adoption, custody and parenting laws.

In a related development, the Massachusetts steering committee met Wednesday night to discuss the absence of a speaker at the March who will address the issues of parenting and Dukakis' policies.

The committee intends to take the issue to the executive committee, which is currently in the process of inviting speakers to the march. The executive committee has been criticized for not allowing a national discussion on choice of speakers and for not including grassroots speakers in the line-up. (See last week's *GCN*.)

—filed from Boston



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WHAT'S A DYKE TO DO?

A LESBIAN
RELUCTANTLY
ENTERS THE
AGE OF
SAFE SEX...

By Laurie Sherman

Referring to the many flings I'd had since we broke up, my ex-lover sarcastically remarked a few months ago, "Watch it girl, you're gonna be high risk soon." I laughed — a little nervously.

A few days later I bantered with a friend about the logistical joys of being a lesbian: no need for birth control and miniscule chance of getting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). To my surprise she disagreed about our relative freedom from STDs, insisting lesbians are equally at risk once we become more sexually active. It is not the fact that we fuck other women that makes us safe, she asserted, but the relative lack of "promiscuity" in our community. I wondered whether her point was valid.

I sat in a sauna soon after, perusing a sexy fellow athlete who fucks around a lot and who had made it clear she could be seduced. I wondered: what is it worth to me? What would I be risking?

I am angry that the answers to these questions are so elusive. Most people in this country — including those at highest risk for AIDS — don't have access to information on any sexually transmitted diseases. Even as people are dying, our government — our entire culture — is still too committed to sexual repression and homophobia to distribute useful, sexually explicit material.

Condom ads tell us to "be careful" or "be safe." What the hell does "safe" mean? Pamphlets and mainstream news stories tell us AIDS is spread by "intimate sexual contact." Hmmmm, let's see, does that mean if fucking isn't a very intimate experience for me, I am always safe? Does it mean that all "intimate," hot kissing is completely unsafe?

Even in queer-produced literature about AIDS, what is safe, safer and unsafe is usually not clear — in part, I realize, because the docs and researchers don't know for sure. But equally often, the information is useless or even wrong because the writers are unwilling to admit what they don't know, are unwilling to be sexually explicit, or are unwilling to acknowledge their sexual biases.

Although not well done — and not always accessible, especially to people of color or to those who don't speak English — literature

on AIDS is available to gay men and now for hets. Very little has been published at all for lesbians.

But while I'm angry at the scarcity of available information, I'm even more frustrated and sad that I need to be thinking about STDs. Only relatively recently have we lesbians begun as a community to claim our right to sexual representation and exploration: witness the growth of lesbian sex magazines, videos, lesbian sex discussion groups.

For not much longer have we gals in general been able to question the notion that "fucking around" is only for the boys, and now safe sex literature and hotlines incorrectly warn us that promiscuity in and of itself transmits AIDS.

Monogamy, celibacy, committed and romantic sex and love are what many women prefer; I choose some of these myself. But many of us also wish to embrace our desire to have sex with strangers, to have sex for sex's sake, to make love with friends, to be "promiscuous" at times (or always).

Weeding through the muck we are taught about women's sexuality and getting past the constant polarization between anti-sex/anti-porn/pro-sex/pro-porn, blah, blah, blah is a definite challenge; who wants to factor in sexually transmitted diseases as well?

While I am frustrated, I realize what a luxury it is for me to be able to choose to be safe/safer now, to face these questions before STDs and AIDS are rampant among dykes. I think of all the people with AIDS who would probably give anything to have had safe sex information 5-10 years ago.

What we all need is not more medical lingo or political jargon, but access to basic info understandable to "lay people" like myself (no pun intended). This in mind, I spoke with AIDS researchers, health care providers and activists, and read the available literature on AIDS and other STDs.

The recurring theme: the questions far outweigh the answers (surprise, surprise). But I did stumble across some useful concepts and tangible information — some of which is even arousing!

Redefining Safe Sex

First of all, let's get rid of the negative stigma and the mystery surrounding the term "safe sex." Face it girls, most women have always had to worry about safe sex. Those of us who were actively het (or were or are bisexual) had to worry about birth control — about safety in terms of avoiding pregnancy — and about VD (Venereal Disease — another phrase for sexually transmitted diseases). We have had to work to keep abortion legal and still need to make it affordable for lower income women.

Those of us who were involved with men had to worry about safety when considering a date with a new man. Now, as lesbian battering comes out of the closet, we know that simply being involved with another woman does not ensure safety. And to include the emotional level in this discussion, we all constantly make decisions about what feels safe to us in sexual relationships — as we face memories of rape or incest, or as we confront the vulnerability that accompanies sex and relationships for many women.

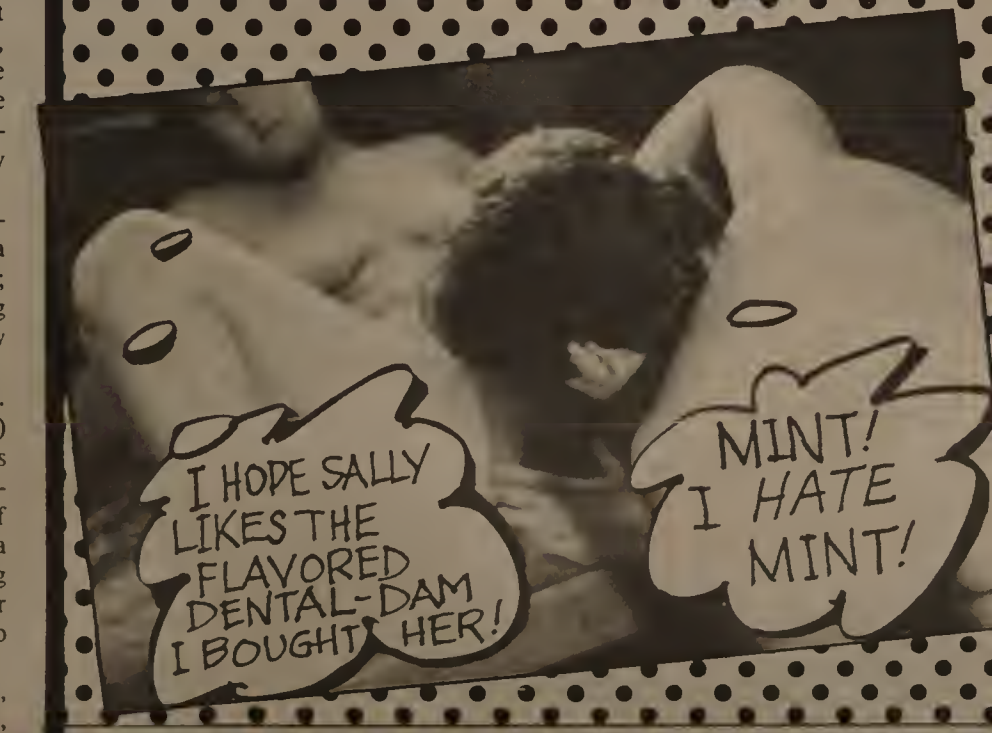
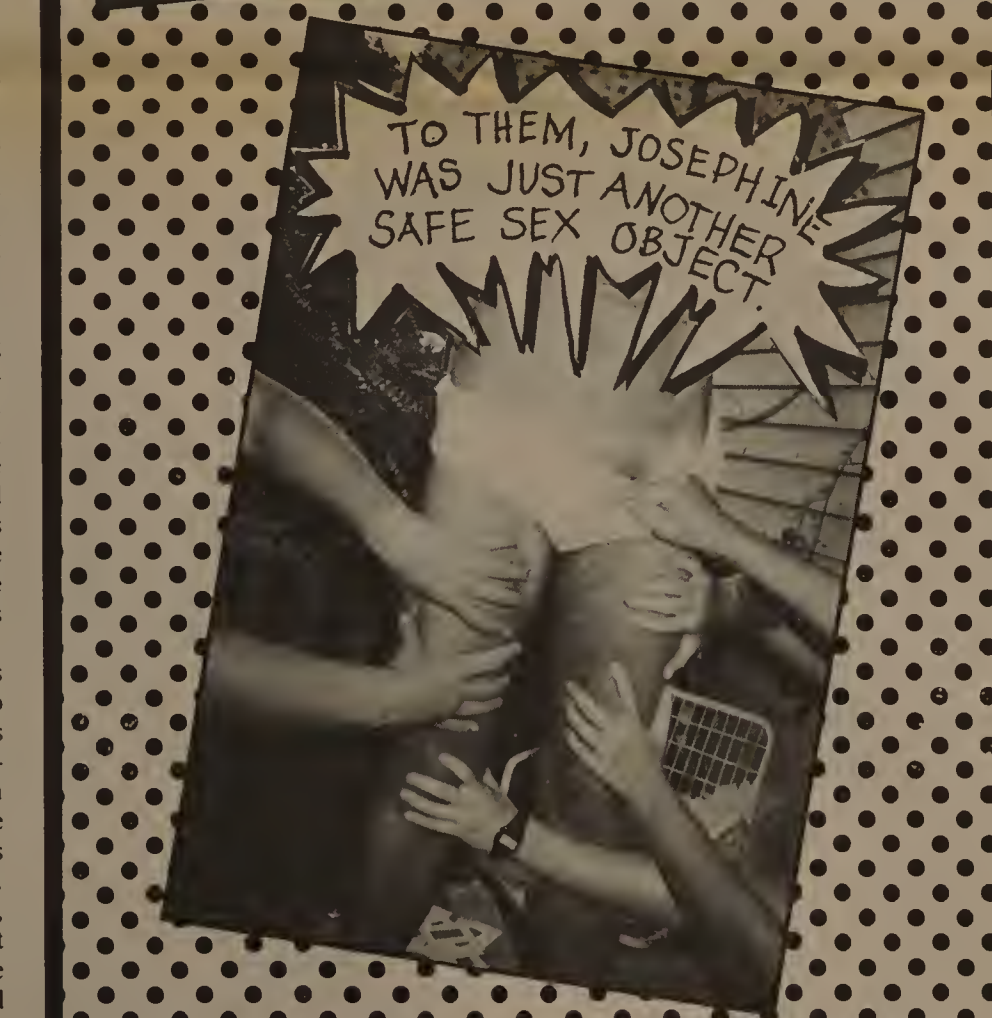
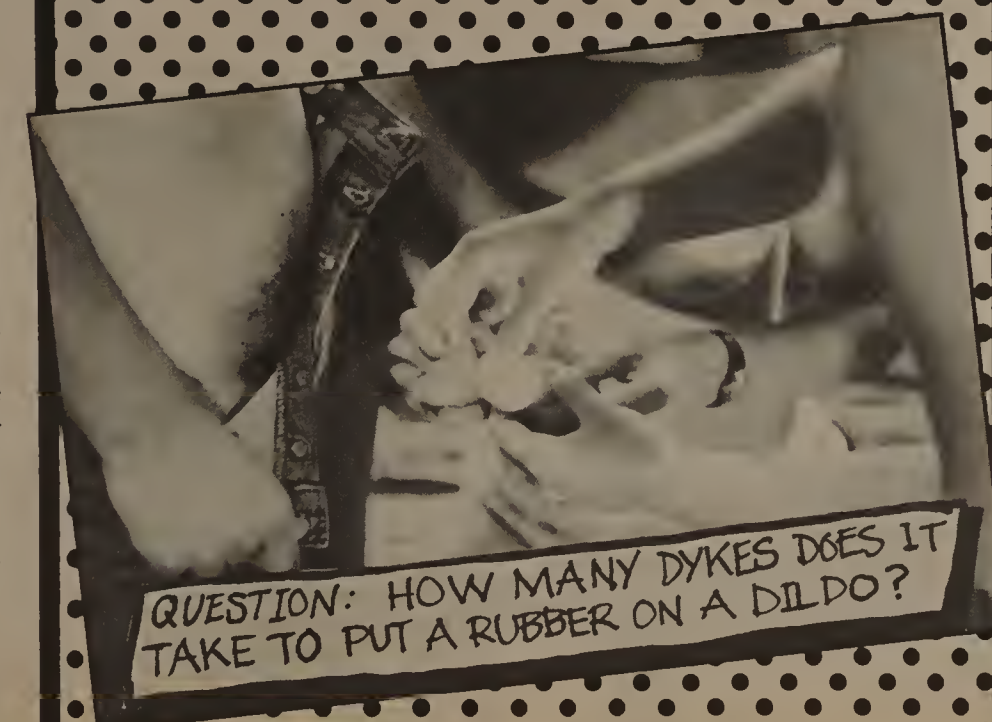
"Safe sex" can actually open new doors for many of us sexual creatures. While also divisive for our community, the debates about s/m and pornography have reintroduced sex as an area for discussion among women. Regardless of which side you come down on in these debates, it is hard to miss that women are discussing sex.

These discussions are still fairly abstract, but the issue of safe sex makes more explicit talk likely and important. Many gay men are finding it possible to eroticize safe sex and we need to learn from them. Talking about what you have done and plan to do (details, details!) can be hot. Hearing some of the creative games a gay male friend of mine comes up with is better than reading *Bad Attitude* (Boston's lesbian sex magazine) any day!

Having safe sex can mean cutting out certain acts — e.g., for gay men, buttfucking a partner at risk, without an intact condom; or it can mean renewing passion by adding new ideas, new positions, new games, new toys.

Having sex safely is also a political act. (We lesbians like everything to be political.) Dykes who work with PWAs stress repeatedly the importance of the lesbian/gay community taking care of itself " 'cause ain't nobody else out there gonna do it for us." Especially as lesbians, facing both sexism and homophobia (and for women of color, racism as well), we need to look after our own community.

Being buddies to people with AIDS, challenging people who crack AIDS jokes,



coming out whenever possible are all ways we take care of ourselves and each other. So is educating our community about safe sex, decreasing the spread of all STDs. Dykes are in an especially good position: the incidence of all STDs is low in our community and we can keep it that way with a little work.

Dykes and STDs

I am defining an STD as any disease that is spread through sexual contact, from kissing to anal intercourse. I focus on AIDS because of its severity and because of the lack of information available for lesbians. See box for all the other delectable things we should know about as well.

My friend was wrong when she insisted that lesbians who fuck around are no less at risk for STDs than others. There is a sound biological reason we are the chosen folk (hallelujah!). For one, the concentration of virus in sperm and the speed with which it is released into a woman's vagina or a man or woman's ass are factors not at play when women are sexual only with other women. A nurse practitioner I know worked at an LA health clinic which served many "promiscuous" lesbians; very few of her patients contracted *any* STD. Plain and simple, it is extremely rare for lesbians to get gonorrhea or syphilis, for example.

We are safer not only because our partners are women, but because STDs are still rare in our community and thus we are less likely to come into contact with them than are bisexuals or het or gay men.

But — and this "but" is the crux of the matter — we must not confuse low risk with immunity.

Lesbians and AIDS

AIDS is one of the STDs to which dykes are generally *not* as susceptible as hets, bis and gay men. But again, we are not immune. Why? First let me run down what we know about AIDS.

Researchers believe AIDS is caused by HIV — human immunodeficiency virus. HIV attacks a person's immune system, allowing a number of otherwise non-fatal diseases to weaken and eventually kill the infected person. To infect someone, the virus must pass into his or her bloodstream. This seems to happen most easily from blood to blood contact or from semen to blood contact.

A great majority of those exposed to HIV will develop anti-bodies to the virus, and a portion will go on to develop AIDS (estimates range from 20-60 percent). Some researchers believe repeated exposure to the HIV virus is necessary for infection, and that co-factors must be present to weaken the immune system, such as extensive drug or alcohol use, other illnesses, etc.

One of the most efficient forms of transmission seems to be anal intercourse: a man with HIV buttfucks another man or woman without a condom; the receiving partner absorbs the sperm into the walls of his or her ass (these walls are more absorbent than those in the vagina; thus tears are not even necessary for HIV to get into the bloodstream).

HIV may also be transmitted through blood transfusions received before March 1985 (all blood is now screened for exposure to HIV), and through sharing intravenous drug needles and other paraphernalia (blood from an infected person is left on the needle and shot into another's bloodstream).

Other forms of transmission are considered less likely, but have not been ruled out, such as swallowing sperm or vaginal fluid during oral sex, and swallowing breast milk or secretions. It is thus far believed that the concentration of the HIV virus in saliva or tears is not dense enough to infect a healthy person.

So how can lesbians contract HIV? More and more AIDS researchers now discuss high risk *activities* versus high risk groups of people. Examples: while lesbians as lesbians are lower risk than other people, a dyke who uses IV-drugs and shares needles is at higher risk than many gay men. A "promiscuous" gay man who never gives or receives anal intercourse is not at high risk; nor is a prostitute who gives hand jobs or insists her johns wear condoms (which many prostitutes have done for years, to prevent VD).

We need to talk to our partners not about labels, but about behaviors. Many women consider themselves lesbians and occasionally sleep with men. And when we do so, it seems we are more likely to be interested in and feel "safe" with bi or gay men; this puts us at higher risk than having sex with an exclusively heterosexual man, unless he is an IV-drug user or is in one of the other risk categories. And invisible though our gay community may render them, there are plenty of lesbian IV-drug users. Lesbians

TO BE CONTINUED... ON PG. 10

may also be at risk if they received artificial insemination from unknown donors before the fall of 1985, when sperm banks began screening donors for exposure to HIV.

Lesbians can obviously contract HIV from activities other than having sex with women. The big question (at least in my mind) is: can lesbians contract HIV simply from sexual contact with other lesbians? Yes, according to an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Researchers claim at least two women in the U.S. have contracted AIDS from their same-sex partners. One case is suspect; for example, the infected woman did have sex with both a bisexual and a heterosexual man at some point.

Yet we need to realize that an infected woman — in one case an IV-drug user — could pass the virus to her partner, especially if the women have blood to blood contact. In one case cited, the uninfected woman went down on her lover during her lover's period and they each had vaginal bleeding, probably from fisting or rough finger-fucking.

Personal Choices

Wish that you could look at a box in this article to find exactly what you can do to be safe, what is risky and what is a no-no? It is understandable that we want this information, but to offer it is misleading. Sexually progressive researchers are quick to point out that the safe sex guidelines are just that — guidelines, not guarantees or orders, especially because so little is known definitively about AIDS. We need to educate ourselves and decide what precautions to take, how to change our behavior, if at all.

Determining who is safe to screw is not easy, if we don't know our partners well. HIV can thrive in someone who shows no symptoms, who looks perfectly healthy.

So, we need to talk. But how do we do it? I can't quite picture it: I'm in the dyke bar Somewhere Else, boogie-ing down, on my first date with a woman I've eyed for months in the mixed nuts and tofu section of the local food co-op. We're having meaningful conversations, as all good lesbians do on the first date (and the second date and...), respecting each other's space, and...I decide: fuck it and grab her, only to remember that I must pull back and say,



"Excuse me, Cherry Blossom, but do you have any communicable diseases about which I should know?"

I don't have any easy answers. While I can think of ways *having* safe sex can be fun (once both people, or all three or four involved decide it is necessary), incorporating the question into initial fucking/lovemaking seems tricky. One woman interviewed suggested we start out playing it totally safe with new affairs and take away unnecessary restrictions once we get to know each other.

What is playing it safe though? Here are two very different examples of attitudes I have come across in talking to AIDS activists and health care workers about having sex with new partners.

• **Attitude #1:** Be completely safe at least in the beginning. Do not do "deep, prolonged kissing" or oral sex without a dental dam (a thin square of latex placed over a lover's cunt — see picture); do not put fingers in her ass or cunt without finger cots or rubber gloves.

Why? Because there is still so much we don't know about AIDS and HIV, and better we be over-cautious and alive in five years to relax the precautions, than to get AIDS. Although it is unlikely, it is still possible that we will find out vaginal secretions or even saliva transmit the virus in some cases.

People with this attitude also suggest that on a first date or first fuck, we might want to assume our partner is at risk and not go by her word; many lesbians will not feel comfortable admitting to sleeping with men or using IV drugs or being HIV-positive.

• **Attitude #2:** Be basically safe, but don't run your life by fear of AIDS. Don't go down on a woman during her period if you don't know her risk status and avoid other obvious contact with her blood; otherwise, carry on with your sex life.

Why? Because we can get killed crossing the street or raped walking alone at night; we all take chances in living and we know enough about AIDS and HIV to realize that blood contact is the most dangerous. And while it makes sense for gay men to assume their partners are infected, the same is not true for lesbians; most of our partners are currently not infected.

People with Attitude #1 insist that our community won't remain so safe if Attitude

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES...

The following are brief descriptions of STDs. I gathered most of the information from the pamphlets at Fenway Community Health Center and from the appendix of Joann Loulan's book *Lesbian Sex*.

If you have any of the symptoms described below, don't panic; contact a health care practitioner. Most sexually transmitted diseases are easily cured and many will become serious if ignored.

Chlamydia

Chlamydia can cause genital infections with serious consequences for women. It starts as an infection of the cervix and can spread through the uterus and into the fallopian tubes. Chlamydia can also cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) — inflammation of the whole female reproductive system.

Some symptoms of Chlamydia are: genital itching and burning, vaginal discharge, dull pain in the pelvic area, and bleeding between menstrual periods. The test for Chlamydia is simple and painless and recommended for sexually active women. Since it's not part of regular gynecological check-ups, though, we need to ask for it.

Vaginitis

"Vaginitis" means an infection in the vagina. Not too difficult to get, since our cunts are moist, warm and dark — fun for exploring, but also convenient for uninvited bugs to grow, and for welcome and healthy bugs to overgrow. The way we pass them is by mixing our juices, with fingers and dildoes and tongues.

The most common forms of vaginitis are yeast, trichomonas (trich) and bacteria. All of these exist all the time in our cunts, but can overgrow. All are pretty easily treated.

1. Yeast

With too much yeast in our vaginas we itch and omit a discharge (doesn't that word evoke military images — little soldiers storming out of our cunts?). The discharge supposedly smells like bread yeast and can itch unbearably. The one time my lover and I got it years ago, we found the only relief was masturbation, which relaxed the muscles that itched!

There are other home remedies: washing out the vagina with a mixture of 1/4 cup vinegar to one quart water each day, spooning in plain yogurt, or coating a tampon with yogurt and sticking it in. If these don't work, there are creams that can be prescribed.

2. Trich

When overgrown in the vagina, Trichomonas causes genital redness, painful peeing, and a yellow-green discharge. It can require Flagyl, a prescription drug that sometimes causes nausea and headaches and shouldn't be taken for long or by pregnant women, or with alcohol.

3. Bacterial Infection

These are bugs which when out of control cause similar symptoms: red genitals, itching and burning while peeing, and smelly discharge (no one seems to have pinpointed the delightful odor). You can buy a betadine and water douche at any drugstore and shoot it up. By the way, almost all health care workers recom-

mend that we never douche with the scented shit on the market and that we not douche at all unless to correct one of these vaginal infections — regular douching can upset the natural chemical balance in our vaginas.

Herpes

Herpes appears either on the lips or on the genitals. The virus looks like a sore or series of sores which appear, erupt and heal, usually over ten-day cycles. Medical folks theorize that the virus is always present in an infected person, but only appears on the body from time to time, depending on stress, sickness, heat, wind, the menstrual cycle and irritation of the lips or genitals.

Herpes on the lips (called Herpes I) can itch and be painful. Genital Herpes (Herpes II) can cause shooting pains inside the body, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, cold symptoms, sores draining with puss, itching and burning with peeing. All symptoms last about ten days.

Herpes is only transmissible through direct contact with the sores. Health care workers believe the virus is only infectious when the sores are open, and possibly for a few days before they appear (after a tingling sensation begins in the infected area) and for a few days after healing. One woman I spoke with, who has Herpes on her lip, never kisses her lover or goes down on her (except with a dental dam) from the moment she feels the tingling to seven days after healing. She has been with her lover for over four years and has not passed the virus to her.

There is as of yet no cure for Herpes, but many home remedies and over-the-counter drugs can relieve the symptoms.

Venereal Warts

These are like warts on the hands, but appear outside the vagina and occasionally inside the vagina or ass. They can be burned off with acid by a doctor, or surgically removed, or ignored if they cause no discomfort.

Scabies and Crabs

Scabies and Crabs are little buggers that attach onto our skin or burrow into our body hair and lay eggs. We know they are there because we itch like crazy. Luckily, shampooing with Kwell (prescription lotion) gets rid of the suckers.

Urinary Tract Infections

These can be caused by a lot of movement in the vagina with fingers, dildoes, vibrators, etc. to the point of irritating the urethra (the opening to our vagina). Symptoms: vaginal pain and constant peeing, abdominal and lower back pain, blood or puss in the urine. UTIs need to be treated quickly to prevent bladder and kidney infections. Both prescription drugs and Chinese herbs have been useful in treatment.

Gonorrhea and Syphilis

These are almost unheard of amongst dykes. Gonorrhea is a bacteria which can cause discharge from the vagina or ass, lower abdominal pain, a sore throat and a burning sensation when peeing. The only early signs of syphilis are painless raised bumps that may become open draining sores. The treatment for gonorrhea and syphilis is antibiotics.

#2 prevails, since some lesbians do carry HIV already.

And of course there are more extreme attitudes — people who are educated about AIDS and choose never to think about any risk; others who choose not to have sex at all, in response to AIDS.

Oy vey, it's not a simple discussion and I won't pretend I have it all figured out. My choice right now is at least to get to know as much as possible about the sexual history of potential partners or flings. It took my current partner and me a number of weeks before we laid out the nitty gritty of exactly what we had done and with whom, and we still need to talk more. I hope that I will talk sooner with other partners.

Risk Reduction Suggestions

While most AIDS activists and researchers I spoke with agreed I shouldn't offer pat safe/unsafe categories, let me share some pretty widely accepted information.

- Figure out your history; go through each partner you have had and figure out if she or he is at risk, or if his or her partners were. It may be hard to remember, but you need to be able to tell others what you do and don't know about your past and present practices.
- Talk! Practicing safer sex doesn't necessarily mean using the "equipment" listed below; it simply means trying to determine if you or your partner are at risk, or deciding to play it safe if you don't know your risk level, if you aren't willing to talk, or if you don't trust your partner's answers.
- At least avoid all blood to blood contact (and semen to blood contact for bisexual women), unless you are certain there is no chance of risk in your and your partners' histories. For example, if you have an open sore in your mouth, do not swallow menstrual blood, or lick a partner's cut, etc.
- Use a different rubber on the dildo each time a new person uses the toy, so as not to pass any infections; or dip the dildo in a solution of one part bleach to ten parts water and rinse it under running water; or don't share sex toys.
- Consider using contraceptive foams or jellies containing non-oxynol 9 when having sex with men, since they have been shown to kill the HIV virus in laboratories. However, some women get a skin reaction from these substances so test a little in your vagina or ass.
- When using a lubricant with condoms (to keep them on), use one that is water-based, not oil-based; water bases are safer for our cunts and don't weaken the rubber. KY-Jelly is the most common water-based lubricant and is sold in most drug stores (over the counter). It is also recommended for anal sex between women (putting fingers in each other's asses, for example) or for anal or vaginal fisting to provide comfort and to prevent tears (although, again, it is believed HIV can pass into the walls of the anus without tears).
- Don't share works — needles, cookers, or strainers — for IV drug use; if you do share, clean them with one part bleach to ten parts water and rinse them under running water.
- If you believe you or your partner are at risk or if you do not know the risk level, avoid exchanging fluids — but (major "but"), you need to decide for yourself which fluids this includes. If you decide to avoid all or most bodily fluids, there are some aids you can use: 1) Dental dams: flat, square pieces of latex that come in mint, vanilla and chocolate flavors (which all still taste like rubber) and can be ordered from a dental supply store, since dentists use them in patient's mouths. Order them by calling (617) 427-1800 or writing to: Healthco International, 120 South Hampton Street, Boston, MA 02118. Placing them over a lover's cunt or ass may provide protection from body fluids that may carry HIV or other viruses (and is strongly recommended for women with Herpes on their lips who may still go down on their lovers). Throw each dam away after one use.
- 2) Finger cots (gloves for a single finger) and latex gloves: same concept as dental dams — put rubber between you and fluids. Since we all have miniscule tears in our mouths and on our hands, we may want to use these if our partner is at high risk, or at any risk, some would argue. Certainly if we have open cuts on our hands and our lover has her period and is at risk, we should try these.
- Take care of your body. Researchers believe health is a primary determining factor in whether people exposed to HIV will develop AIDS.

PG. 11

SUSIE IS LEFT HANGING AGAIN...

YOUR THREE MINUTES ARE UP. IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE, REDIAL 1-550-DYKE...

"LESBIANS & AIDS"!! "FACTS ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES"!! "MAKING SEX SAFER"!! SO MUCH TO FIGURE OUT BEFORE MY 9:00 DATE !!!

WILL SAFE SEX DAUNT DONNA, DARLENE AND DAPHNE?

RESOURCES

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • AIDS Atlanta, Atlanta, GA | (404) 872-0600 |
| • Chicaga Women's AIDS Project, Chicago, IL | (312) 786-0036 |
| • Fenway Community Health Center, Boston, MA | (617) 267-7573 |
| • Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York, NY | (212) 807-6655 |
| • Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco, CA | (415) 864-4376 |
| • Women's AIDS Project, Los Angeles, CA | (213) 650-1508 |

Dyke Safe Sex Week

It is almost impossible for most of us to think about embarking on a campaign of safe sex alone, not only because it seems to limit what we can do; we also fear being laughed out of our new lover's futon (or our new mistress' condo). Our community as a whole needs to rally around this one, as gay men did, making safe sex discussions and practices the norm, not the exception. I think of all the gay men now who answer the proposition "come home and fuck me" with "sure, as long as you're into safe sex, baby."

How about a local or national Dyke Safe Sex Week — a week in which we all talk about and practice safe sex (if we want to have sex, that is) regardless of the level of risk we face? Even couples together for five years could try something new that is safe, playing with food or doing a scene. For example, one woman stands dressed over a lover strewn across the bed. The woman on the bed masturbates to the first woman's directions.

Others into more elaborate schemes could hold a large safe sex party; we could practice safe sex lines and laugh at ourselves, with ourselves. Like the new "fuckerware" parties, we could bring sex toys to display and try, and practice using them safely.

Hot Safe Sex Contest

Let's share our hot safe sex ideas. As a matter of fact, let's make it a contest in GCN. Send in anything that floats into your mind, or your bedroom, or the dance floor: lines you have used to find out if a partner is at risk for any STD, scenes you have done, hot and safe stories you have written or told.

We'll print them and let you vote on the best. The winners will receive gift certificates for fun stuff. Both fags and dykes should send submissions to: GCN Hot and Safe, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

And just to start us off, I bopped around to friends and co-workers at GCN and searched my own brain and sex life for suggestions. Here are ways we can have a good time and be safe; in this case safe mainly refers to the risk of contracting HIV.

- 1) lie below a glass table and watch your lover masturbate on top of it.
- 2) go to a bar and pretend not to know your lover; try to pick her up, playing different roles (butch/femme, teacher/student, older dyke/younger het woman).
- 4) call your latest hearthrob (clitthrob?) and tell her how to touch herself, tell her what you'd like to do, read her your own or someone else's porn.
- 5) have sex leaving all of your clothes on, touching or "humping" your lover only on top of the clothes.
- 6) describe your favorite fantasies to your lover.
- 7) try the new lotions on the market that taste good and feel warm to your lover when you blow on them on her unbroken skin.
- 8) position your clit under the bathtub faucet and let the good times roll, while your lover sits behind you touching your breasts the way she knows you like it.
- 9) play with temperature: put ice or hot massage oil in your hands and rub her all over; slide the ice inside.
- 10) have sex safely in a public place: masturbate watching each other in a department store dressing room; have oral sex with a dental dam in an airplane bathroom; toe fuck with socks on under the table at a restaurant.
- 11) have fun with any kind of "fetishes" and toys that don't involve exchanging body fluids: whipping without breaking the skin, tying your lover up, using warm wax, playing with urine or shit (don't swallow or let near open skin), using blindfolds, trying breast clamps (not to the point of bleeding).
- 12) incorporate latex gloves or fingercoats or dental dams into games/scenes: in a doctor's office, at a pharmacy, at the dentist.

My goal in writing this article is to open discussion among us dykes. Through letters to the editor, please let us know what questions you have, what information you can offer to supplement mine, and what your experiences are dealing with sexually transmitted diseases in our community.

Two T-shirts I saw at Boston's Lesbian and Gay Pride March said it well: "Denial is not a river in Egypt" and "Safer sex: do you care enough?"

I appreciate the help I received on this article from Martha Moon, Clay Stephens, Marea Murray, Cindy Patton, Nancy Aronoff, Stephanie Poggi, and the daring dykes who posed with me.

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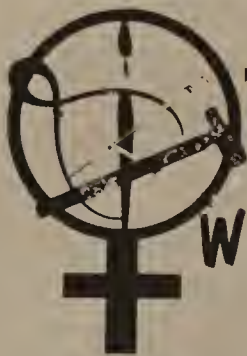
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PERSONALS

GM, married, prof, 36, athletic, handsome, discreet, hairy, visits Boston Sep 9-11. Looking for guy to run with, etc! Jack C. 13563 NW Cornell #169, Portland, OR 97229. (6)

Care for a little summer romance? LF, 35, sks lite, uncomplicated fling. Gd sense of humor, warm heart, god looks, and tired of dyke drama. I like theatre, biking, traveling, and dancing. Wanna play. Hurry! The summer's almost over. . . Box 235. (6)

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Are you a GM, 27 + ? A sober, husky, bearded bear? Do you like staying in more than going out? Would you like a GM, 24, to shower you with big wet kisses, mess up your hair & bed, and give you bone-crushing hugs? I thought so. Well, what are you going to do about it? Box 234. (5)

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to work thru "what color is your parachute?" No experience required but should be serious. Box 233. (7)

Me-GWF, attr, 26, kind, shy, amazonal, gd lover. You-GWF, attr, Possibly Possessive? Fem? Soft Hair? Reliable? 10-30% overweight? (Be still my heart!) Box 221. (5)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDITORIAL HELP.

Volunteers needed to edit copy, answer correspondence, perform general office tasks. Time commitment: 2 hrs weekly minimum. Weekdays & Thurs. and Fri. nights; possible take home work. Call Stephanie, 426-4469. (C)

JEWISH LESBIAN DAUGHTERS OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

We meet for support & networking and welcome contact from other Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13th-15th, in upstate New York. A *partners group* has also been formed for lesbian women who are in relationship with JLDHS. Membership is not dependent on both partners. For information, write Box 6194, Boston, MA 02114 or call (617) 321-4254. (49)

GET PUBLISHED!

GCN's news dept is looking for a volunteer to write news notes. News writing experience not necessary. 5 hr/week (flexible). Call Jennie at 426-4469 for more info. (C)

PUBLICATIONS

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out, NCBLG, 930 F Street, NW no 514, Wash., DC 20004. Black/Out: Because silence is costly.

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1; sub \$5; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (V15.21)

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WOMAN OF POWER: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

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AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE

Quaker based organization seeks two staff for six state New England regional office. Both require organizing experience with social change and community organizations. Commitment to nonviolence as a means of social change.

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HELP WANTED

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Outgoing, energetic, detail-oriented, creative feminist needed to sell ads for Boston's women's paper. Gather leads, prepare literature, make calls, design ads. \$16,000/year + benefits + vacation. Send resume/letter by August 5 to: Ad Search, Sojourner, 143 Albany St., Cambridge, MA 02130. (5)

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Funding Exchange, a national network of 14 community-based funds that support progressive political activism, seeks staff person to develop new fundraising and promotional campaigns. Will work directly with local funds on new publications, joint fundraising strategies, media outreach. Strong writing and administrative skills and previous experience with fundraising for non-profits helpful. Member funds support women's rights, gay and lesbian, anti-racist, Central American and other social change projects. Send resume, references and writing sample to: Staff Search, Funding Exchange, 666 Broadway, 5th fl., New York, NY 10012. Third world, women, gay and lesbian candidates encouraged to apply. (5)

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Prof. LF 39, smoker with dog seeks quiet, neat, responsible prof. F 35-45 to share my nice Brookline apt., darkroom available, dog okay, \$350.00 +. Avail Aug or Sept. Call after July 15, 739-0523. (5)

PORTSMOUTH NH

LF artist + cats seeks resp LF or F 28+ (possibly pisces) to share sunny 2br apt d-town Portsmouth. Wood flrs, fireplace, balcony. Heat, no pets, drugs, smoke or alc pls. Call (603) 436-3537 after 6pm. (5)

2 LF's seek 1 LF to share JP home. Near Arbor and T. Must be responsible and neat. No smoke, no pets. Avail Sept. 1 or sooner. \$250+. Call 524-5915; leave message. (5)

LF 31 & 2 cats lkg for feminist woman to shr. lge, sunny apt. w/bkyd in W. Som. Friendly, resp & neat. No smoke/pets pls. \$275+. Call Eileen 628-6133. (5)

YOUR NEW JP HOME

3 LF sk 1 more, 25+ to share great apt, progr poltics, spirit, humor, food, w/d nr pond, Arbrtm, Orng, Gr. lines. No smking, pls. Avail immed or Sept 1. Call day or nite 524-6209. \$192.50. (5)

L37 sks rmt for sunny JP apt near Arb. Friendly, independ home. Great porch, hwd flrs, wash mach. Sorry, no pets. \$275+ util. 522-2240. (6)

JP HOME

2F (1B, 1L) seek F to share spacious 3 bdrm apt in JP — hwd floors, off st, parkg, nr T & Jamaica pond. Must like pets, but no more please. No drugs, min. alcohol. \$260. We are energetic and have good sense of humor. Call Nancy eves. 522-2118. (5)

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POND SIDE JP

Seeking 27+ BIF or LF for friendly, progressive, independent 5-woman home. Great house, 2 porches, garden. Near T. Parkg. One dog, one cat: animal lovers but no more pets. No smokers; light alc/drug use only. \$240+. Avail 9/1. Min 1 year commitment. Call 522-9760 or 522-7446. (C)

1LF, 26, seeks 2 quiet, neat, resp. Fs for 3BD apt. in Porter Sq. \$317+. Avail now, + Sept. Porch, yd; near T. No smoke, pets, or drugs, please. Call Stephanie, 625-4474. Lv. message. (5)

LF seeks LF, to sbt xtra BR in sunny 2BR apt in Smvl, Sept. 1-Dec. Ideal to Davis Sq. T. Must be responsible quiet neat. No smkg. No pets \$250+. Lg. 5 rm apt. w/d hwd flrs. 625-3030. (5)

2LFs sk LF 25+. No smoke, drink, pets, to share friendly home in Newtonville. Space with yard, pkg. \$250+. Avail Sept 1st. 965-0648. Jackie. (5)

LF 35 seeking roommate for 2 bdrm apt in 2 family house in Malden. Close to Oak Grove T stop on Orange Line. \$250 per month + util. 321-2724. (6)

2 Fs (1 L & 1 B) seek 3rd (L or B) to share Som. apt nr Inman Sq. Non-smoking, no more cats. Rent \$234+. Sec Dep. Avail 9/1. Call 492-7653. (5)

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Responsible LF seeks nonsmoking 35+ LF — Quiet — Neat — One sm. dog OK. Comp furnished — own bath. \$300 plus sec. Call 432-6046. Leave message. cat. (5)

LF & cat seek friendly, resp. LF 25+ with sense of humor to share lg 2BR sunny JP apt near T. \$337 incl. heat. No smoke/drugs. Min alcohol. Maybe 1 indoor cat. Avail 9/1. 524-3173. (5)

2 Rms avail in beaut. Rosl. hm with ir-reverent spiritual W 35. Sun, trees, blrds, nr. Arb. Reas. rent avail 8/15. Cat OK, no cigs. Dovidia, 327-3367. (5)

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1 LF + 1 GM seek 2 people to share 4 bdrm apt, WD, porch, parking, lg yard, DW + more. \$265+. Call 825-2722. (5)

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Cozy Fenway apt. to share with ME — friendly, 23 yp. F. \$290+. Avail 9/87. Call Julie (days) 725-3562. (7)

GM 24 & LF 27 sk nonsmkr, veg. LF 24+ w/sense of humor for beautiful Somerville apt. Sorry, no more cats. Avail 9/1. \$293+. 776-7909. (5)

DAVIS SQUARE

LF 28 sks 2 roommates to share 2 fl duplex on dead-end street. Quiet, spacious, W/D. Avail 9/1. \$270+. Sorry, no smoke, dogs, cats. 776-8405. (5)

WEST SOMERVILLE

LF for old-fashioned 2 BD near Ball/Davis Sqrs. Porches, nice nghbrhd, sun, trees, stars, pkg near T. No substance abuse, smoke. \$325+. 666-0934. (5)

JP APARTMENT

We are 3LFs and we are seeking a 4th for our JP home. The apt has hardwood floors, lots of room, fresh paint and is available immediately. We are semi-coop, semi-veg, alcohol/smoke/chem-free, and friendly. Rent is \$220 a month + util. Call 522-0637 for more info. (5)

ROOMMATE WANTED

UNION SQ. SOMERVILLE 9/1

LF 27 sks resp. L for quiet, friendly, independent HH. Lrg 2 br apt. w/flrs on bus lines. No smoking/pets. \$225+ utils. Call 666-0513. (5)

SOUTH END

GM seeks same to share quiet w bdrm near Boston Ctr for arts. W/D no smkrs no pets. Call David: 482-6029. Lv msge. Avail 8/1 hurry! (6)

HOUSING WANTED

LF, 27, seeks LF group household. I have a sweet, mellow dog and can pay \$200/mo. max. Call Jennie at GCN, 426-4469 days, or 661-4714 eves. (C)

HELP!

Our JP apt is being sold and we're being priced out of the neighborhood. We're 2LF's looking for an already established apartment with 1 or more LF's or 1 or 2 LF's who want to look for an apt with us. No smoke or pets. We're looking to move anywhere between late Aug or early Oct. Call Kim at GCN at 426-4469 (days) or 522-6813 (eve). (C)

2 L's (25, 29) seek 2 women to share a semi-coop home. We enjoy laughter, polarity, politics, greenery, communication & no allergens. If you would like to find a house with us, or know of one, Call Nancy or Barbara at 623-5035 or B at W: 643-2442. Prefer near Arlington/Somerv. (15)

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GCN SPECIALS

DICTIONARY, anyone?

The most requested book at the Prisoner's Project is the dictionary. (Prisoner's generally uneducated, need them to wade through law books, etc.) If you have a spare one (paperbacks especially), please send it to GCN Prisoner Project, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. Thanks! (c)

GCN VOLUNTEERS

Yes, you too can share in the power and glory and office drudgery! Correspondence, filling, phone calling, etc. Days preferable but some nights ok. Call Loie at 426-4469. (c)

PHOTO FANATICS

We still need folks to sort through and file old photos. Have fun and help GCN at the same time. Call Loie, 426-4469. (c)

RIDES

RIDER WANTED

Seeking another L to share driving from Boston to San Francisco Bay area. Leaving around Aug. 23. Call P.B. 524-4416. (5)

ORGANIZATIONS

GAY YOUTH COMMUNITY FUND

Sponsors of youth/student projects send tax-deductible donations payable to: GYCC/Capp St. Foundation. Mail to: GYCF, 2215-R Market St., Suite 479, San Francisco, CA 94114. (30)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (48)

DOB

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (35)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:30. Women's meeting at 6. Call 497-8282 for info. (32)

SHELIX

Northampton, MA lesbian s/m support group since 1983 meets monthly for topic discussions. Safe confidential environment. Lesbians at all levels of fantasy or practice welcome. Newcomers encouraged. Sase: Shelix, PO Box 416 Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060. (7)

PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL

Info packet on police abuse of gay teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage & printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will, PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244. (9)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones St. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (23)

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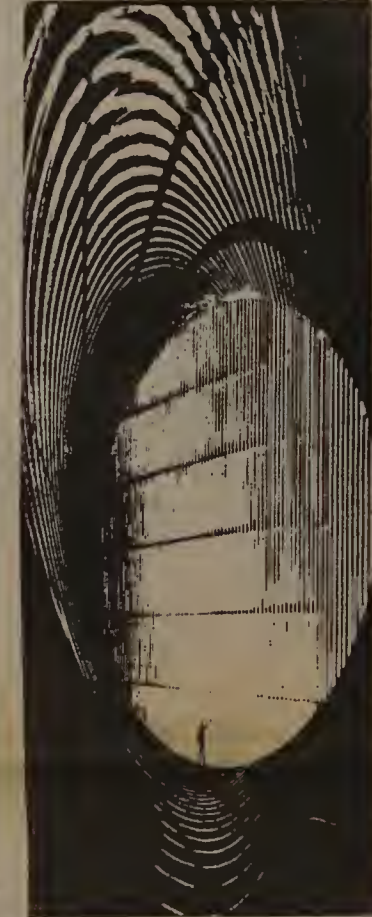
HOWARD MOVING

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).

GCN Gay & Lesbian Prisoner Project

We send free GCNs, books (when they are donated, and money for postage is available), and run free penpal ads. (There's sometimes a long waiting list because of limited space.) If you can help with your time or a contribution of gay/lesbian or other paperbacks, please call Mike at GCN, 426-4469 or drop by, 62 Berkeley St, Boston MA 02116 (near Back Bay Sta.-Orange line; Arlington Sta.-Green line).



HELP! DICTIONARIES!!!

One of the 'facts of life' folks is that prisoners are often without much 'education' (which is partly why they're where they are: hard to get jobs, hard to deal with the legal jargon). PLEASE send any old dictionaries (paperback or not), or \$ to buy some used, to: GCN.

GAY PRISONERS & 'PROTECTIVE CUSTODY'

Legal issues & cases around how to get in and out of PC and other ISOLATION situations: write to GCN for 'Prisons Within Prisons' and we'll send it to you. (FREE!) (smile)

— PRISONERS' RIGHTS READING —

The following are available from the ACLU National Prison Project, 1616 P St. NW, Washington DC 20036:
• JOURNAL — excellent stories on current state of prisoners rights battles by ACLU, \$2 per year, 4 issues;
• Offender Rights Litigation — by Bronstein; chapter on prisoner rights movement and the state of the law on certain issues; \$2.50
• NPP Status Report — 34 states are operating their prisons under court orders (i.e. ILLEGALLY!) because of violations of prisoners' rights (esp. overcrowding and cruel and unusual punishment) Details are here. \$3.

FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE available from the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington DC 20005.

Free report on Crime Control and Sentencing Act of 1984. Write J. Robert Cooper, Esq., 634 McDonough Blvd, Drawer 150400, Atlanta GA 30315. (800)241-0670.

MORE AND MORE RACIST 'JUSTICE'

In 1940 10 percent of the people were Black and 30 percent of the prisoners were Black. In 1974 11.4 percent of the people were Black and 47 percent of the prisoners were Black.



I am a 22 year old female seeking friends. I'm a very caring person and love writing. At this point in my life I'm very lonely. I can't write other prisoners. Please send some of your free books when you have them. Thanks. Teresa TANKERSLEY, A488714, PO Box 8540 (286), Pembroke Pines FL 33024

Lovable Leo lady looking for a long term relationship with serious minded individual. 120 lbs of pure pleasure. Ms. Enriqueta GONZALEZ, 22645-RCB176L, Frontera CA 91720

Versital Virgo lady with a genuine outlook on life. I'm bold and full of gold. Olive complexion. Ms. Rose MITCHELL, 26839-RCB175U, Frontera CA 91720.

— LesCon is a quarterly publication that is free to women in prison. LesCon is short for Lesbian Contradiction: A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. (\$5 to women on the outside; more if/less if). 584 Castro St. Suite 263, San Francisco CA 94114 or 1007 N.47th, Seattle WA 98103.

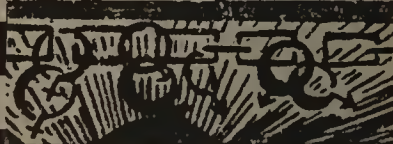


PRISONERS WRITING PRISONERS

States that DO usually let prisoners write other state prisoners are: Ver, NY, Mass, NJ, Fla, Miss, Ohio, Penn, NCar, Kan, Tex, Cal, NMex, Colo, Ore, Mont, Wash, Lou, Neb, Mary, Ariz, Geo, Ark, Mich, Missouri. (usually!)

States that DON'T (or with greater difficulty) are: Ala, RI, Okla, Nev, Iowa, Id, WVirg, Wyo, Tenn, Wisc, Ind.

If you have info on states not listed here (or corrections), please let us know. It saves other prisoners a lot of wasted postage. Thanks.



JUDE IS BACK! (In Trenton)

Robert Jude Ryan is back in Trenton and rarin to write. His address is: Robert Jude RYAN, 79022, CN-861-3BB, Trenton NJ 08625

Romantically warm, humorous, sometimes mischievous gay man, 25, seeking gay penpal who is comfortable with his nature for friendship. Any age. Kenneth COOK, 183583, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Straight forward, stern loving, open-minded individual (Ital-Mex), looking for sincere penpal, in prison or in the free world. Picture for picture, letter for letter. Ernest S. ALVARADO, 346662, Rt 1 Box 150, Tennessee Colony TX 75861.

I am in need of some friends to help me through some hard times. I have brown eyes and a cute baby face, if you're into that sort of thing. Bobby HAMMONDS, 451567, Box 128 Beto 1, Tennessee Colony TX 75861

I'm 25 and Brazilian and would like to write a gay man. Luis CUASCUT, 86A 2943, Box 500, Elmira NY 14902.

Bisexual male, like to listen to rock, seeking someone to write. Other prisoners welcome. Anthony RIDDICK, 18974-R, Box 4970 Main Jail, Orlando FL 32802

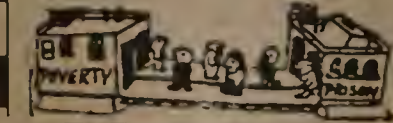
Seeking to correspond with Hispanic or Drag queens. Looking for friendship and a relationship. John WOLVERTON, 394218, Rt 1 Box 1077, Brazoria TX 77422.

Master leathercrafter does handcrafted wallets, belts, purses, handbags etc., supporting self and helpers. Good enough to carve fantst art and portraits into leather. Also looking for a few penpals. Robert BENITEZ, 87388, Pine 1, Angola LA 70712.

Gawd how much the polysexual mind, heart and body need and want attention, to be thoroughly laid in every conceivable loving way. Please circulate my name. Spread it all over. All sexualities welcome to write. Robert HALL, 272008, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

Being a Haitian gay who prefers the company of effeminate males, this has been a most painful and miserable experience. I could never have imagined that a person could endure such cold loneliness and tolerate such vast degrees of ignorance and cruelty, and still be in good health and possession of his sanity. I'm hoping, now that I have discovered your wonderful magazine, that I'll be able to find a faithful friend. R. Leveau ASHER, 142-206-H6B, Box 4010 St Rt 104, Chillicothe OH 45601

I'm tired of not getting any mail. So lets become friends and exchange our fantasies. Ilove music, the outdoors and I don't believe in playing con games. Robert MCQUEEN, 35468, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.



CALENDAR

August 8 to September 6

8 saturday

Boston — Am Tikva Torah study at Arnold Arboretum. Meet at main gate on Rte. 203. 10:30am. Info: 782-8894.

Boston — Interview with musician **Marcie Boyd**. On "Something About the Women." WMFO, 91.5 FM. 10am-2pm.

New London, CT — **Black & White Men Together and Men of All Colors/Connecticut** present a bus tour of Gillette Castle and Harknes Park. Bus leaves from Columbus Ave. at W. Newton St. in Boston at 10am. \$37 (covers bus, admissions and meals). Info: 547-1986, (401) 352-3638.

9 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors **potluck picnic** at Jamaica Pond. Across from Morrairie St. 4pm. No alcohol. Info: 522-6090.

Cambridge — **Wild Women Blueberry Picking**. Carpool to New Hampshire from DOB, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Info: Cora, 868-6776.

Roxbury — Grandmothers Against Apartheid. **S. African women's day observance** at St. Mark's Congregational Church, 200 Townsend St. Donations of children's clothing will be collected for the ANC school in Tanzania. Free.

Boston — **LEGACY** goes to Tanglewood. Leave from Park St. station at 9am. Info and reservations: Ann or Kate, 725-3485.



Debbie Rich

Robert Barney, 16 sunday

10 monday

Cambridge — Gay and Lesbian **Speakers Bureau** planning meeting, 97 Trowbridge St. 7-8:30pm. Info: 354-0133.

Cambridge — **Lesbian Al/Anon**. Women's Center, 6:30-9:30pm. Childcare provided. 46 Pleasant St, Camb. Info: 354-8807.

11 tuesday

Boston — **Gay Fathers** of Greater Boston potluck supper. Info: 742-7897.

Boston — "Come meet the soccer team" night at the Chandler Inn. Berkeley St. 8pm.

Cambridge — **Coming out rap**. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — **Civil Defense Task Force** for the March on Washington. Northeastern Univ., 174 Ell Center. 7pm. Info: 354-8515.

12 wednesday

Boston — NOW lesbian rights task force meeting. Boston NOW office, 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7pm. Info: 782-1056.

Cambridge — **Lesbians 35+** discuss "Outside Friends in a Relationship." DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — March on Washington steering committee meeting. Piemonte Rm., Boston City Hall. 7pm. Use Federal St. entrance. Info: 442-9597.

Cambridge — **Tatiana Schreiber** hosts "Say it Sister" on WMBR 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

13 thursday

Boston — **GCN's** production night. All welcome. Proofreading: before 8PM. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. **GCN**: 426-4469.

14 friday

Boston — Feminist and Lesbian **Smith College Alumnae** potluck. Info: 969-6042.

Boston — **GCN** mailing. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. Near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 426-4469.

15 saturday

Boston — **Older gay men's** group meeting. 6 Hamilton Pl. 2-4pm. Info: 725-4907.

Boston — Gay Professional Women's annual **Boston harbor cruise**. Meet at Rowes' Wharf, Atlantic Ave. at 7pm. Members free, guests \$12. Info: 585-6051 after 6pm.

Provincetown — **Dorchester GALA** day trip to **P-Town**. Meet at Commonwealth Pier, 9:30am. Info: Barbara, 282-2962.

Provincetown — **Ten Percent Revue**, a lesbian and gay revue. Gifford House Cabaret, 9 Carver St. 8pm. Through Sept. 7. \$8. Info: 487-0688.

Ogunquit, ME — **BILGA** fun trip to **Ogunquit**. Meet at 9:30am at 68 Bay State Rd. (Boston). Raindate: Aug. 16th. Info, rides: 437-7399.

16 sunday

Boston — **Boston harbor cruise** with Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain. Bring lunch. Reservations: 232-3479.

Salem, NH — Benefit performance of **Greater Tuna** for New Hampshire AIDS charities. Performance followed by back stage "Salsa Social." The Town & Country Playhouse. 7pm. \$11. Info. and tickets: Theatre Party, P.O. Box 226, Salem, NH 03079.

Boston — "Boston's Other Voice" speaks with **Robert Barney**, music director of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. WROR, 98.5 FM. 12:30am, Monday morning.

Cambridge — **DOB women's softball**. Magazine Field, Mem. Dr., Cambridge. All abilities welcome. Info: Steph, 357-5774.

18 tuesday

Boston — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain "get cultural" with the **Boston Ballet**. Esplanade (look for the flamingo and helium balloon). Alcohol-free potluck. Info: 522-6090.

19 wednesday

Cambridge — "Say It Sister" host **Jennifer Abod** with guests P. Stevens and Helen McNamee from COYOTE, call-in show. WMBR 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

20 thursday

Dorchester — **Dorchester GALA** business meeting. 7:30pm. Info: Andre, 825-8724.



Wayne Maser

Lost Boys, see review

23 sunday

Boston — Am Tikva Sunday Outing. Info: 782-8894.

Arlington — Am Tikva summer **outing** at **Spy Pond**. Meet at picnic tables next to swimming area. Bring dairy/veggie dishes to share. Noon. Info: 782-8894.

24 monday

Boston — **Whitney Houston** in concert on the Common. Benefit for the AIDS Action Committee. \$35, \$50 with VIP reception. Info: 266-6909.

25 tuesday

Boston — **Civil Defense Task Force** for the March on Washington. Northeastern Univ., 174 Ell Center. 7pm. Info: 354-8515.

29 saturday

Boston — Lesbian and Gay **Freedom Trail Band** concert. Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common. 11:30am.

30 sunday

Boston — **Rock Against Sexism** wild and crazy **disc party**. The 1270. 6-10pm. \$2.

Mansfield, MA — **Anne Murray** performs at Great Woods. 7:30pm. Tickets \$13.50-\$19.50. Info: 339-2333.

september 4 friday

Greenwich, RI — **New England Women's Musical Retreat**. Through Sept. 7. W. Alton Jones Campus, University of Rhode Island. \$105-\$130 before Aug. 20, \$135 after. Info and tickets: NEWMR, P.O. Box 217, New Haven, CT 06513. (203) 523-1268.

6 sunday

Dorchester — **Dorchester GALA** monthly **potluck**. Info: Barbara, 282-2962, Joe, 282-7822 (after 6pm).

The Lost Boys. Directed by Joel Schumacher. With Dianne Wiest, Kiefer Sutherland, Jason Patric, Jami Gertz, Bernard Hughes. At the Charles and Assembly Square Cinemas.

The Lost Boys is by no means a great movie. It's not even a very good movie, and although it has aspirations to something better, or — heaven help us — deeper, it's really not only lots of fun, but has more homoeroticism than anything else around this season.

Lucy Emerson (Dianne Wiest), a single mother with two sons, Michael (Jason Patric) and Sam (Corey Haim) move to the pleasant Southern California town of Santa Carla in an attempt to get out of a bad marriage and the Midwest. Everything seems fine except for the fact that Santa Carla apparently has the largest problem with missing children in the world — milk cartons here are so filled with faces there seems to be no room for nutritional information. After a few days the older boy, Michael, seems to have met the wrong crowd on the bustling Boardwalk. The *really* wrong crowd. It seems that there is a very active vampire population in Santa Carla — mostly centered around a teen gang led by surly, but very cute, David (Keifer Sutherland). Peer pressure being what it is, Michael is tempted to join the gang — and does, somewhat unwittingly — only to become a half-bloodsucker. (The other half comes after he makes his first kill.) Obviously the "just say no to blood" campaign hasn't sunk in very much here.

Lucy is fairly unaware of what is going on most of the time and is actually dating someone who may not be very good for *her* health either. Luckily, younger son Sam has met up with a couple of vampire-busters (they put out comic books telling you how to deal with the issue) who help him with all of his family problems. The results are slightly hysterical, not too bloody, and generally quite funny.

On the down side, *The Lost Boys* feels like a pre-fab mess. The actors were chosen because they're cute and look like rock stars. The movie looks as though it has been processed through MTV. And although it has some clever and daring ideas — vampire lore mixed with Peter Pan mixed with some trenchant social observations — it never really succeeds in balancing the horror and the comedy in a satisfying manner.

On the up side the film features some great photography (interspersed with the MTV goop), some wonderful performances — especially that of Kiefer Sutherland as the lead vampire, and Corey Haim as the young man who is discovering that blood is thicker than brotherhood, as well as some great gross-out scenes. But what is most noticeable about *The Lost Boys* is that it has some of the sexiest scenes between boys that I've seen in years. When the sultry-eyed David is urging the well-built Michael to "Stop resisting, just give into it" in the *Lost Boys* underground den, they may be talking about one thing, but it is pretty clear what everyone in the audience is thinking.

—Michael Bronski

Calendar compiled by Barnaby Fisher

GayCommunity News

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